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MEMOIRS

OF

MARIA FOX,

LATE OF TOTTENHAM,

CONSISTING CHIEFLY OF EXTRACTS FROM HER JOURNAL AND CORRESPONDENCE.

"The path of the just is as the shining light—and, when these have been permitted, through infinite mercy, to attain to the perfect day, and are for ever at rest with their Saviour, whom they loved and sought to follow here below, the track by which they trod through this valley of tears, is still bright, and the contemplation of it is animating and instructive."—P. 419.

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PREFACE.

In preparing the following work for publication, the Editor has been influenced by a variety of considerations. To himself, it has furnished an interesting and congenial occupation for not a few solitary hours, whilst to a large circle of intimate friends, indeed, to all who had any acquaintance with the subject of this biography, it is believed that the volume will prove an acceptable memento of their departed friend. But to others besides these, it may supply matter of interest and instruction. The young will find in it encouraging evidence of the truth, that wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness,—that instead of interfering with the true enjoyment of life, or cramping the energies of the mind, religion heightens the one, and strengthens, whilst it regulates, the other. And those who are further advanced in years, especially of her own sex, may derive some encouragement from the practical exhibition of christian principle, in the various relations and duties of active life. Those also who take an interest in observing the development of character and the diversity of the human mind, may here find materials for profitable contemplation. But it is the christian believer,—the faithful, yet oft-times faint-hearted follower of a crucified Redeemer, to whom this volume will be especially valuable. It may serve to confirm his faith, and animate his hopes, and possibly it may tend to enlarge his conceptions of the glory of that gospel, which is "the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth."

A few short pieces of poetry have been inserted. Actuated by religious principle, and ever fearful of violating the limits of

strict veracity, the writer was restrained from availing herself of the ordinary poetical license, or of soaring far into the regions of imagination. Consequently, these simple lays may possess but few attractions for some readers, whilst to others, they may prove acceptable, not only as marking a refined taste, but as exhibiting the tendency of the author's mind, when expatiating with delight on the works of creation, to turn to the still more glorious theme of a Saviour's love.

The Editor has not been insensible of the delicacy of the task which he has undertaken. One of his chief difficulties in the execution, has arisen from his own name occurring so frequently in the original materials. In the following publication, it has been omitted, wherever it was practicable without interrupting the narrative, or doing manifest injustice to the character of a most devoted and affectionate wife. But little of editorial matter has been introduced into the work. Instead of adding to its value, it might have interfered with the faithful transcript of Maria Fox's mind, as presented in her own memoranda and letters.

S. F. Fox

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MEMOIRS OF MARIA FOX.

CHAPTER I.

1793—1809. Parentage—Address to her children—Biographical notice of her parents—Death of her brother—Her own and sister's education —Decease of her mother.

Maria Fox, the subject of this Memoir, was born at Wellingborough, in Northamptonshire, on the 30th of the Third Month, 1793. Her parents, Benjamin and Tabitha Middleton, were highly esteemed members of the Society of Friends, the former occupying, for many years, the station of elder, the latter that of a minister.

The following sketch from the pen of their daughter, supersedes the necessity of any other description. In this simple narration, will be found much practical instruction, and in the delineation here presented to our view of the characters of this estimable couple, is furnished a beautiful illustration of the reality, the power and efficacy of true religion.

This sweet tribute to the memory of her departed parents, cannot fail to derive additional interest from the touching address to her own beloved children, by which it is prefaced. It will be seen that the writer gives also a brief outline of the mode pursued in her own and her sister's early education, and the

reader will only regret that the narrative terminates so abruptly.

To B. M. F.—S. L. F. and J. H. F.

My dear Children,

Your mother's parents were removed from this world long before you were born; but their memory is precious, and their pious example, in the various duties of their station, is often brought sweetly to my remembrance; so that I think it will be interesting as well as instructive for you to possess such particulars respecting them, as I may be able clearly to remember.

My dear father and mother lived in habits of close and confidential intimacy with their children; we enjoyed their conversation, and listened with delight, when they related to us any circumstances of their past life that were likely to interest us, or to furnish lessons of instruction to our minds. My dear father would often engage our attention in this way. In the winter evenings, when we formed a happy circle round the fire, I sat in a little chair beside his knees, and used to listen with avidity to his recitals; some of the minute circumstances of which, are fixed more firmly in my memory, than many subsequent impressions.

Those are sweet and favoured hours, when children enjoy the society of their parents in the mutual interchange of affection and confidence; and I love to retrace such seasons, and to dwell on the remembrance of those excellencies which adorned the christian character of these beloved parents. Of them, it might almost be said, in the words applied by Luke to Zacharias and Elizabeth, (and I have heard the text quoted by one who knew them intimately, in attempting to describe their character) that they walked "in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless." Their conduct and conversation eminently adorned the doctrine of God our Saviour. They esteemed his service, their noblest employment, and counted nothing too dear to part with for his sake. They were rich in works of faith and labours of love, but, in true humility of heart, held themselves ever as unprofitable servants, and rested their hope of salvation on the glorious promises of the gospel of Christ. Their hearts

were enlarged in his love, so that it was their delight, according to the ability he had given them, to "do good unto all men, especially unto them," who were "of the household of faith;" but that spirit of universal benevolence, which led them to feel for the wants and the sorrows of their fellow-creatures without distinction, did not withdraw them from the fulfilment of those more private duties which they owed to their family.

Of the manner in which they discharged their trust as parents, I can only say, that it is the prayer of my heart, that *we* may be enabled, by the power of divine grace, so to care for you, our precious children, so to walk before you, in humility and the fear of God, so to bear you upon our hearts before the throne of grace, and when we shall be taken from you, to leave upon your minds such an impression, as they have left upon the minds of their children, of the beauty as well as excellency of vital religion.

You have had pious ancestors on both sides; may it be your fervent prayer to become followers of them, as they followed Christ; patiently, humbly, meekly, to tread that path of self-denial in which they were content to walk, looking, through faith in a crucified Saviour, towards the crown of life laid up at the end of the race for them who love his appearing!

So prays your affectionate Mother,

M. F.

Wellington, 1835.

Benjamin Middleton the elder, was a native of Highflatts in Yorkshire, but his family came originally from the village of Hope, near Castleton, in the Peak of Derbyshire. He removed from Highflatts, probably about the year 1730, and established himself at Wellingborough in the business of a woollen-draper. He began the world with few advantages besides the possession of an active, energetic mind and industrious habits. In the year 1737, he married Hannah Brooksbank, also a native of Highflatts or its neighbourhood. They had three children, Hannah, Mary, and Benjamin, the subject of the following narrative.

Benjamin Middleton (our dear father,) was born at Wellingborough in the county of Northampton, I believe on the 17th of Second Month, 1746, O. S., two days after the decisive

defeat of the Scotch rebels, as they were termed, at the battle of Culloden. It was a time of general excitement, and the day of my dear father's birth, was a day of great agitation and alarm throughout the northern and midland counties, from the prevalence of a rumour that victory had been on the side of the Scotch, and that their troops were rapidly advancing towards the capital. So fully was this report believed, and so great was the confusion and dismay it produced, that the day was long spoken of in popular language, under the epithet of "Running Saturday."

Of my dear father's early childhood, much is not known; but he appears to have been of a sweet and tender spirit, and seriously inclined when very young, though a child of great natural vivacity, and, it seems, not wanting in spirit when circumstances called it forth. I have heard him say, that one of his earliest recollections was of a contested election for the county, which took place when he was about three years old, and that hearing a man in the street vociferate the name of one of the candidates, he immediately shouted the other, and threw an apple he held in his hand at the man who showed himself on the side contrary to that which was espoused by his father; a proof that children imbibe, at a very early age, the spirit and temper of those with whom they are nearly associated. He received the rudiments of education from a schoolmaster at Wellingborough, who, though principally self-taught, had acquired considerable knowledge of mathematics and the science of astronomy. From this native genius, he probably imbibed a fondness for arithmetical calculations, and a taste for geography and astronomy, which were conspicuous through life.

About this time John Hirst of Sheffield, a distant relation, was occasionally a guest at their house. The accounts he gave of the various manufactures carried on at Sheffield, awakened in the mind of my dear father an earnest desire to visit this extraordinary place, and made him willingly accede to the proposal of his father that he should be apprenticed to J. H. It was a very great trial to the feelings of his affectionate mother to part with him at the age of twelve years, especially as he was sent this journey of about one hundred miles with the packhorses; a mode at that time generally used for the conveyance of goods, and of which

travellers frequently availed themselves. It was in the winter season; for I have heard him speak of traversing the forest near Nottingham in the snow, and being often obliged to walk to keep himself warm.

The business carried on by John Hirst and his partners, was the manufacture of plated stirrups and bridle-bits, and my dear father was taught to work in the various processes of it. In the early part of his apprenticeship, he met with many trials from his situation, as the youngest among a number of men and boys, whose conversation and habits were very uncongenial to him: some of them, with the insensibility which marks a low or depraved mind, considered it a matter of amusement to inflict suffering on his acute feelings. These trials had perhaps the effect of deepening those religious impressions which had been carefully cherished by his mother. He was very fond of reading, and devoted most of his leisure hours to the improvement of his mind, and with this view he attended an evening school kept by a Friend. He was diligent in the perusal of the Holy Scriptures and other religious books, and early felt the value of opportunities for private meditation and secret waiting on the Lord. He was privileged with free access to the houses of some valuable friends at Sheffield, amongst whom were William and Mary Fairbank. They treated him with affectionate kindness, and he cherished for them a strong and permanent friendship; always speaking with grateful sensibility of their religious care for him during this interesting period of his life.

During the time of his apprenticeship he had the small-pox so severely, that his life was despaired of by his attendants. At this juncture, his father, who had been sent for, arrived. He had just read a publication which recommended a mode of treatment directly opposite to that which had long been pursued in this disorder; and, being a man of considerable resolution and firmness of character, he urged the immediate adoption of a course which appeared to him most rational. The medical men were very averse to his proposal; but, seeing the critical situation of his son, he resolved on the change, and proceeded immediately to admit air into the heated apartment, sitting down himself by the bed-side to watch the effect. He soon had the satisfaction of

observing favourable indications, and the event fully answered his hopes.

The uniform stability of my dear father's conduct, his fidelity and diligence in business during the term of his apprenticeship, had so far gained him the confidence and esteem of his masters, that at the termination of it they concluded to offer him a share in the concern. This appeared, at the time, a very advantageous proposal to a young man who had little expectation of advancement in the world, but by his own care and exertion. His mind, however, which had long been secretly bending under the transforming power of divine grace, was deeply sensible of the importance of a step which was likely to have an influence on his whole future life; and as he earnestly desired to follow, in humility of heart, the teachings of a Saviour who pleased not himself, he could not venture on accepting this offer, without taking time for serious deliberation and asking counsel of the Lord.

Whilst thus carefully endeavouring to ascertain the course pointed out for him by best wisdom, different views of the subject presented themselves. On one hand, there was the inducement held out of a comfortable establishment in a business with which he was well acquainted, and of settlement in a place where he enjoyed many social and religious privileges; on the other, his mind, strongly alive to the claims of filial duty and domestic affection, turned with tender interest to the situation of his parents. His father, from the pressure of increasing infirmities, was become less capable of conducting the business at home, and his mother naturally looked to her only son as the stay of her declining years. Under these circumstances, it appeared right to hold himself so far at liberty as to be able, whenever it should become necessary, fully to devote himself to their comfort and assistance. He therefore declined to accept a share in the business at Sheffield, but continued, for several years longer, to be employed in it. With this determination his mind was well satisfied, and, in the unfolding of subsequent events, he found cause to look back upon it as a providential leading.

In the year 1769, his eldest sister Hannah died. My father went home on this occasion, to attend the interment and to visit his bereaved parents. He returned to Sheffield, and continued

his former employment until his twenty-fourth year; when, his mother feeling the want of his assistance to carry on the business, for which her husband was still more disqualified, he resigned his situation, took leave of his many kind friends at Sheffield, by whom he was highly esteemed, and returned to the parental roof. In the document issued by Balby Monthly Meeting, recommending him to that of Wellingborough, it is certified that his conduct, so far as it was known to his friends, was sober, unblamable, and consistent with our christian profession.

Here I may mention a little incident which occurred in one of his journeys from Sheffield to Wellingborough, and which, though trivial in itself, he often adverted to with interest and pleasure. Riding on horseback near the town of Market Harborough, he overtook an elderly man, whose appearance was that of a shepherd or labouring husbandman. There was something in the honest simplicity of his countenance, which so arrested my father's attention, that he slackened his pace, in order to let the stranger again come up with him, and when he did so, was somewhat surprised at his accosting him in the language peculiar to our Society. A conversation followed, in which my father was so interested, that he prevailed on his companion to stay at the next town and take some refreshment with him. It appeared that this aged friend was going to London from one of the dales of Yorkshire, where he lived on a small farm of five pounds per annum. The product of this farm maintained himself and a sister who kept his house, whilst another sister, who boarded with them, paid him sixteen pence per week for her maintenance. They manufactured their own wool for clothing, and lived chiefly on milk and vegetables. Having been this year unusually successful with his flock of twenty-eight sheep, he was anxious to attend the Yearly Meeting. He said that some of his friends at Kendal had been solicitous about his undertaking so long a journey on foot, with his slender means; and they had kindly furnished him with the names of several friends who would accommodate him with a meal or lodging, but that, in general, he did not feel freedom to avail himself of this; he had, mostly, sought refreshment at small inns, and though in some of these he had not been very well received, he seemed to be cheerfully pursuing his

journey. The contentment and independence of this worthy man, in his very humble circumstances, made a lasting impression on the mind of my father, who, several years afterwards, ascertained him to be an esteemed minister in our Society; his name, John Arker. It appeared that he died shortly after his return home from this journey.

When my dear father was settled at Wellingborough, though he found comfort in the performance of his relative duties and in the company of his mother and sister, to whom he was tenderly attached, he met with great trials from various causes. At Sheffield, he had enjoyed many social and religious privileges; but in the small meeting of which he was now become a member, there were few, if any, with whom he could associate with satisfaction. In 1773, he was deprived by death of his valuable mother. He felt this loss acutely; and, to advanced life, cherished her memory with an affection truly filial. His aged father and his sister Mary still remained with him; and he continued to carry on the business, or such parts of it as did not produce uneasiness in his mind. The furnishing of funerals, a very profitable branch of it, carried on by his father, he was best satisfied to decline, as inconsistent with the simplicity professed by Friends; and, in general, he directed his attention chiefly to the sale of useful, substantial articles, rather than of such as are merely showy and ornamental. But, though his income was by this means circumscribed, he had a prospect of moderate success, from his diligence and exertion, when a circumstance occurred, which threatened to involve him in serious difficulty. The owner of the house in which he resided, was a man of property, and having brought up one of his sons to the business of a draper, he gave his tenant notice to quit the premises, within a very short period. At that juncture, there was no situation to be procured in the town, eligible for business. The only house that could be obtained, was in a poor street, out of the way of the market, and altogether unfavourable for the establishment of a shop. His neighbours considered it a hopeless undertaking, especially as he would have a monied competitor in the young man who was to succeed him. The house to which my dear father removed, was in a ruinous condition, and needed great repairs to make it at all tenantable. His sister wept at the idea

of leaving their comfortable home for this uninviting place, where they became settled about the year 1774. For a considerable time, the business declined; the young man who had entered on the former shop, using every means in his power to secure the customers. During this time of trial and discouragement, my father was favoured to maintain a reliance on that good Hand which had hitherto cared for him, and to persevere in a course of conscientious integrity, abstaining from all attempts to injure his opponent, which he considered incompatible with the christian rule. After some time the young man failed from imprudent attempts to extend his business, when my father's customers gradually returned, so that at the end of a few years he had the prospect of making a competent livelihood, and was able to improve his house and roomy premises, until it became a truly comfortable and convenient home.

In the year 1775, his affectionate feelings met with another severe trial in the death of his sister Mary, about the thirty-third year of her age; and in the year 1777, his father was also removed by death. He was now left alone, having no near relative remaining, and few, if any, friends in his neighbourhood to whom he could open his feelings with intimate freedom. But in this time of deep proving of faith, when it pleased the Lord to exercise him with great afflictions, and to lead him in a solitary way, his eye was steadily fixed on that Almighty Helper whom he had found to be a God keeping covenant; and in his holy fear, he was favoured to experience preservation; so that from the testimony of those who knew him at this period, it may be said, that in his humble walking and his circumspect life and conversation, he was an example to the believers, and became gradually qualified to be more extensively useful to others.

The state of religion in the meetings around him, was lamentably low. There was great slackness of discipline, and moral disorders had crept in; whilst amongst those who lamented it, there were few who had courage or zeal to stand forward for the maintenance of good order. The mind of my dear father was deeply affected; and great was the exercise and burden of his spirit on account of the backsliding state of the church. He felt that he was young and inexperienced, whilst some of those who

were active in the affairs of the Society, had long been looked up to, and were advanced in years ; though it is to be feared they had lost much of their best strength, by suffering a temporizing spirit to becloud their judgment and weaken their resolution. But as he sought after the qualifying influences of the divine Spirit, and desired, in deep humility of heart, to learn of that blessed Saviour who declared himself to be meek and lowly, he was favoured not only to find seasons of refreshment to his weary and sorrowful soul, but was also enabled to put on strength in the name of the Lord, and to support with firmness and dignity, what he apprehended to be the cause of truth and righteousness.

It was probably about this period, but the date is not exactly known, that my father experienced a preservation, of which he spoke in after life with a deep feeling of humble gratitude. On a fine morning in the Second Month, he walked to Kettering, seven miles, to attend the Monthly Meeting. Soon after he set out on his return home, snow began to fall, which increased to an almost blinding degree, the wind drifting it into his face. In a short time the ground was so thickly covered, that it became difficult to distinguish the road, which lay through an unenclosed district. He stopped at the door of a small public-house, about half-way, to seek shelter for the night ; but finding there a company of noisy, riotous people, he determined to go forward in the hope of reaching home. After walking a considerable distance, he found he had deviated widely from the road, although no object was in view whereby he could ascertain his exact situation. He had long looked in vain for anything which might mark the road ; and being one not much frequented, he might probably, in such a storm, have perished unseen by any person. Overpowered by cold, and fatigued with traversing heaps of drifted snow, he despaired of retracing his steps, and was ready to give himself up to that benumbing torpor which seizes on the frame of persons so exposed, when, casting an anxious look over the extended space which spread itself around him, he perceived, at a considerable distance, a cart descending a hill. This welcome sight roused his sinking spirits ; and renewing his exertions, he at length succeeded in reaching it, and was conveyed home.

Whilst my dear father was left alone, as to kindred ties, in a

situation replete with trials and difficulties, he enjoyed the privilege of intimate friendship with some highly estimable characters at a distance, particularly with Mary Brook of Leighton Buzzard, who was his cousin, and with Ruth Fallowes of Castle Donnington. With the former, he maintained a constant correspondence. She was a woman of strong mind and acute penetration ; and her judicious counsel on many occasions, was highly valued by her younger friend.

My father met with another trial in his temporal affairs, from the conduct of a young man who had served his apprenticeship with him, and had conducted himself during that time much to the satisfaction of his master. He was the son of a Friend living within the compass of Wellingborough Monthly Meeting, and his parents professed a particular friendship for my father. On the expiration of his term, however, they recommended him to open a shop in the same line of business at Wellingborough ; but, with a show of consideration, intimated that it was not to be done without the approval of his late master. My father observed, that he held it as a principle of common justice, that every man had a right to seek an honest livelihood wherever he might think himself most likely to obtain it ; and that, on this account, he had never made it a stipulation with his apprentices that they should not interfere with him in this respect ; that, consequently he could place no impediment in the young man's way, if they thought Wellingborough the most eligible place for him ; at the same time, mentioning to them several other places where he considered there was a much fairer opening, than in a small town adequately supplied already with shops in their line. The determination of the young man was, however, already taken, and the shop was opened. He was a person of good address, and, from his intimate knowledge of my father's business and long acquaintance with his principal customers, with some of whom he had been endeavouring to ingratiate himself, he soon succeeded in establishing a business ; and his success told, at the end of a year, in the diminished income of my father. This was discouraging, especially at a time when he was looking towards a change in his situation, by marriage, but it was the habit of his pious and upright mind, to refer all outward circum-

stances to that providential care and guidance, which he had so remarkably experienced in his solitary course. He had a firm reliance on the gracious promise of our blessed Saviour, that to those who seek first his kingdom and its righteousness, all things needful shall be added, and was enabled, in a more than ordinary manner, to commit his temporal concerns in faith, to the good hand of that God who clothes the lilies of the field, esteeming a little, with his blessing, better than all the treasures of a deceitful world. The young man soon became elated with his prosperity; and, having married a wife with some property, began to feel less inclined for daily attendance behind the counter. He now added the corn trade to his other business, and frequented the markets of the neighbouring towns: in this way, he gradually acquired a relish for unprofitable company, and was easily induced by travellers in business, to spend his evenings with them, at their inns: the fatal habit of drinking followed, and his too much neglected business gradually forsook him. My father, who ever acted towards him the part of a true friend, did what lay in his power to awaken him to a sense of his danger, and of the duty he owed to his wife and young family, but without effect, and a few years saw him brought to beggary. His wife, for whom my dear parents felt much sympathy, and who was an object of their care and kindness, died, it was believed, of a broken heart.

I have a little anticipated the order of time, to bring the history of this individual to a conclusion, because it is one, which, in its mournful particulars, is calculated to convey much instruction to the inexperienced traveller in the journey of life. My father sincerely grieved for him, for though he had undoubtedly felt his ungenerous conduct towards himself, he had too much true nobility of character, to cherish anything like exultation in the downfal of one who had injured him. That which he felt most deeply was the disappointment of the hopes he had once entertained, that this young man, under the influence of religious principle, might have made a valuable and useful member of society; and the painful reflections produced in the review of his unhappy career, stimulated his own mind to increased watchfulness, and to a more diligent and prayerful dependence on that grace which only can keep us from falling.

In the year 1783, my father's marriage took place; but here, I must suspend the narrative of his life, to give some account of the early years of one who proved to him a true helpmeet, in the fullest sense of that term,—one, to whom those who knew her intimately in the characters of wife and mother, were often ready to apply the beautiful words of Solomon, "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all," and whose children to the latest period of their lives, must "call her blessed."

My beloved mother's maiden name was Tabitha Hoyland; she was the daughter of John and Sarah Hoyland of Sheffield, and the eldest of their children. She had four brothers; William, John, Thomas and Joseph. My grandmother died when her daughter was about twelve years old. On this occasion, John and Elizabeth Massey of Spalding, in Lincolnshire, took my mother, for a year or more, to their house. They were friends of her parents, and she often spoke, in her more advanced life, of the kindness shown her under their roof, and of the advantage she had derived from the instructions of E. M. at this period, when she was deprived of a mother's care. It appears, from some of her letters, that her mind was early visited by the tendering influences of the Holy Spirit, and that, at this period of her life, she was led to desire the favour and protection of her Heavenly Father, in the words of Jacob, when on his way from the parental roof, he made covenant with the God of his fathers; "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go," &c. After her return from Spalding, she remained at home, and pursued her education with her brothers. She made some progress with them in the Latin language, and had a relish for it, in advanced life.

William Tuke of York, had married her aunt, Elizabeth Hoyland; she was deceased, but from W. T. and his second wife, Esther Tuke, my mother always experienced the most affectionate kindness, and she felt their house as another home. With her cousins, the children of her aunt, she maintained the closest intimacy, especially with the eldest daughter Sarah, afterwards wife of Robert Grubb, of Clonmel. To this cousin, most of her early letters are addressed, and they spent much time together, both at Sheffield and York. In the society

and friendship of these excellent relatives, the religious impressions which had been made upon her mind at an early period, were strengthened, and as her character gradually unfolded, the work of divine grace became increasingly evident, in the humility, meekness and circumspection of her conduct, and in a conscientious desire to fulfil her relative, social and religious duties, in the fear of the Lord. William Tuke was a man of true nobility of mind, remarkable not only for sound judgment and religious stability, but for generosity, disinterestedness and the most unshrinking integrity: he was a valuable elder in our Society. His wife, Esther Tuke, was a minister, and travelled much, in that character, in various parts of England and Scotland. She was a woman of strong intellectual powers, and of a very lively disposition, greatly interested in young people, and much beloved by them. Being somewhat infirm, she was much in the practice of taking with her one of the many young women who felt it a privilege to enjoy her friendship, when she travelled in religious service. My mother's home duties did not admit of her being often absent, but I believe, on more than one occasion, she was her companion, and they constantly maintained a very lively and confidential correspondence.

My mother had also an intimate and beloved friend in Mary Barnard of Upperthorpe, near Sheffield, a young woman who is said to have united a superior and cultivated understanding, with those christian graces which promised to render her a truly estimable and useful character: but the expectations of her friends were blasted by her death, which took place not long after her marriage with John Dickenson, of Beverly.

I do not know the exact date of my grandfather's second marriage; but this step was, in some respects, a trial to his children; but under these circumstances, I have heard it remarked by those who had the best opportunity for observation, that my mother's conduct was most exemplary. To her brothers, she acted more than a sister's part, and they always regarded her with respect and affection.

The trials that attended the early years of my dear mother, did not pass over, without impressing on her awakened and reflecting mind, many lessons of deep and lasting instruction.

She was already a disciple in the school of that Saviour who "pleased not Himself," who "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister;" and as she waited in humility to know his will, and sought for the teachings of his Spirit, she learned to sacrifice her own will and gratification to the wishes or the convenience of others, keeping in view their highest interests; and thus, practically, to fulfil that exhortation of the apostle, "Let every one of us please his neighbour, for his good to edification." She felt that she was not her own, but that having been bought with a price, even the precious blood of Christ, she must, no longer live to herself, but unto Him who died for her and rose again; and the prevailing desire of her heart was, in the retirement of her own sphere of duty, meekly and unobtrusively, to occupy with every talent committed to her trust. But it pleased the great Head of the church, who selects his instruments as He sees meet, to call her into a more public line of service, and after many deep preparatory baptisms and much conflict from the natural diffidence of her disposition, she came forth in the character of a minister of the gospel. Her communications were simple, clear and edifying, and much to the satisfaction of her friends, with whose sanction and unity she travelled, in religious service, in various parts of England. One of her first journeys was, I think, with her cousin Sarah Tuke, in Lancashire; afterwards through Scotland with Catherine Trickett of Sheffield.

My dear father knew something of my mother and her family, from his own residence at Sheffield, but it does not appear that he had much acquaintance with her till a subsequent period. His letters to her, before their marriage, prove his deep and religious concern to conduct this important affair in the fear of God, and with a pious reference to his guidance and direction; whilst my dear mother entered into the consideration of it with an earnest and prayerful desire to know what was the divine will respecting her. With the approval of her relatives (her father was not then living) they were united in marriage at Sheffield, on the 29th of Fifth Month, 1783. The change was great in many respects. The large meeting in which she had resided, contained at that time many valuable and interesting characters; it was also the home of all her brothers, so that the sacrifice

of society was considerable. At Wellingborough, the meeting was altogether a small one, and of the few Friends who resided in the town, there were none who were likely to be very congenial associates, or to contribute much to her satisfaction; but her well-regulated mind needed not the stimulants that are often sought for by the young, in social gratifications. In the daily discharge of her domestic, relative and religious duties, she found the most substantial satisfaction, and in these, it might be truly said, her conduct adorned the doctrine of God her Saviour.

Your dear aunt, Hannah Middleton, was born at Wellingborough, the 9th of Ninth Month, 1786. As she was several years older than myself, I cannot give any account, from my own observation, of her early childhood; but have heard it remarked by others, that she was lively, affectionate, and of a timid disposition. Her elder brother, John, was exceedingly fond of her, and delighted in her company. He was a very active, intelligent boy, but died of scarlet fever, whilst at school at Hitchin, in the year 1793, when he was little more than nine years old. His death was a heavy affliction to his parents; and though they were enabled to bow with christian submission to the stroke, it was long before the spirits of my dear mother fully recovered from the shock they had sustained. On her return from Hitchin, after attending her dear John, her anxiety was again called forth, by my sister sickening of the same complaint, and, for some time, her life was considered in imminent danger. It pleased our Heavenly Father, however, to bless their efforts for the recovery of this interesting child, and her sweet society must have been a great solace to her affectionate parents.

They were very solicitous to do the utmost in their power for the education of their children, and paid great attention themselves to the cultivation of our minds, when very young. It was my dear father's practice, to instruct us in his leisure hours, and to elicit habits of observation and reflection, by calling our attention to the wonders of the divine hand in the works of creation. There was no Friend's school at Wellingborough, and it was likely, after the death of their dear boy, it would require no small effort to resolve on sending another to any distance. We therefore went to such day schools as a small town afforded, for in-

struction in reading, writing, English grammar and arithmetic, and had a French master from Northampton once a week. My dear mother used to sit with us at our French lessons, and took great interest in our progress.

When my dear sister was thirteen years of age, it was concluded to send her, for a year, to York, where there was a good school, under the superintendence of my mother's uncle, W. Tuke, and his family. I have often heard her allude to this, as a great advantage to her in many ways. Being of an extremely sensitive and retiring disposition, she was more than usually dependent on the tender care of her mother, and felt it a peculiar trial to be separated from her; nevertheless, when the effort was once made, she settled very comfortably at school, and going to it with a mind prepared to receive and profit by instruction, made great progress during the short time of her stay. In the year 1800, she returned to Wellingborough, and became a very useful assistant to her mother in the domestic business of the family, continuing also the diligent improvement of her mind, by reading and other branches of study. At this early period of life, she was more than usually thoughtful and serious, so that I have heard my dear mother express the comfort she derived from the belief, that the work of divine grace was going forward in the heart of this beloved child, who was peculiarly endeared to her by the dutifulness and stability of her deportment, and by her affectionate desire to contribute, in every possible way, to the comfort of her parents.

When about twenty-one years of age, she had an offer of marriage from a young man who had served his apprenticeship to my father, and who was then settling in business for himself. A mutual attachment had been formed, and the character of the young man and his family were unexceptionable, but his health was extremely delicate. This circumstance, combined with my dear sister's youth, made it appear advisable that the affair should be suspended for a time; a conclusion, quite in unison with her own judgment and wishes, she being very reluctant to look, even distantly, at a separation from her mother. This separation was, however, permitted to come upon us, in a most unexpected and affecting manner, in the autumn of 1809. My sister and myself

had returned from a visit to our relations in Yorkshire only a few days, when our beloved mother was taken ill of what at first seemed little more than a cold, but which proved to be typhus fever, and in about ten days, her valuable life was terminated. The disease had proceeded in so insidious a manner, that little apprehension was felt by the medical attendant until very near the solemn close.

The event which thus deprived her afflicted family of a truly estimable wife and mother, occurred on the 18th of the Tenth Month, 1809.* Such was the character and rapid progress of the disorder, that little opportunity was afforded for expression on the part of the beloved sufferer, yet sufficient to prove, that in this awful season, her mind was sweetly staid on God her Saviour.

* Mary Alexander, who arrived at the house a few days after the event, thus alludes to her visit, in a letter to a friend:—"We had not obtained the smallest intimation of the situation of the family, till we got into the house, when we were met by E. J. Wheeler, whose countenance plainly indicated something important. Greatly surprised we were, on being informed, that after two weeks' illness, our much esteemed friend, Tabitha Middleton, had closed her valuable life. Dear B. M. and his children received us with much composure, and we spent a very interesting evening in the house of mourning. Before we left them this morning, I felt bound to yield to a season of retirement, and in it, to offer the tribute of sympathy which lived in my heart towards them, accompanied with a persuasion, that not only a glorious mansion was prepared for the dear deceased, but that those who remained to lament her departure, were, in a particular manner, under the protecting wing of ancient Goodness."

CHAPTER II.

1809—1819. Reminiscences of her character by contemporaries—Letters and memoranda—Essay on mental cultivation—Death of her father—Letters referring to this event—Botanical and other pursuits.

At the time of her mother's decease, Maria Middleton was in her seventeenth year. Not any of her letters, nor any memoranda of a date previous to this event, have been preserved, nor have we anything written by herself at a subsequent period, that throws much light on her childhood and early youth. One of her school-fellows writes respecting her: "She was one of whom I retain a sweet remembrance; the purity of her character was such as to make her live in our best recollections. There was one girl in the school, particularly refractory; dear Maria, instead of avoiding her, as others of her companions did, thought she would do what she could for her reformation, and undertook the general care of her. Several times do I recollect joining her, while we retired with a candle, behind the curtains in the dining-room, that we might be unobserved, whilst we read the bible and explained its contents to this naughty child. While thus principled, I remember her as a cheerful, happy girl, and one who was generally beloved by her companions."

In the absence of further particulars, the following sketch of her character by another of her contemporaries will be found interesting:—"I have no very clear recollection of our beloved M. much before the death of

her estimable mother, a person whom I conceived to possess uncommon solidity of religious character, and a remarkably meek and quiet spirit. I was staying with them just before her last illness, and recollect the pains she sometimes took with her lively daughter, to calm the impetuosity of her spirit: but still I can call to mind hardly anything that was positively unamiable, or that in the warmth of my attachment to her, I was not disposed to overlook. Our dear cousins were trained in habits of great simplicity, becoming the christianity of their excellent parents, and they were accustomed to a good deal of domestic employment, in which it was my delight and that of my sisters to assist them, when we had opportunity; and I think we had no greater treat than a visit to their hospitable dwelling, where the maxim was verified, that 'sense always shines most, when it is set in humility.' Their mental improvement, by access to books, &c., was always promoted by their parents. Dear M. possessed a very ardent mind and lively imagination, with a strong inclination for literary pursuits and poetry; whatever she engaged in, was consequently pursued with great earnestness, so as sometimes to require a little parental interference. With a mind that so eagerly grasped its object,—with a memory uncommonly retentive, and with habits of steady perseverance, notwithstanding the comparatively few advantages of an intellectual kind offered to the young at that day, her talents could not fail to be cultivated, and her mind enriched. Her vivid fancy,—her powers of description,—her facility in conveying to those around her, the information she possessed on a variety of sub-

jects, united with a heart full of benevolent emotions, rendered her a most delightful companion in the social and domestic circle; and I cannot forget, in the little visits to their friends and acquaintances, in which I was only an admiring spectator, the influence she then had on the company, by her powers of conversation."

The same intimate friend proceeds to say :—" Happily for her safety and preservation, and the comfort of her dear father, her mind was gradually brought under the power of divine grace, as her correspondence and poetical effusions will show; and though some of her friends might at times fear, lest in the warmth of her feelings, her expressions should exceed the measure of her experience, it was not long before they had satisfactory evidence, that under the chastening hand, her religious character was increasing in strength and solidity; for when the influence of parental care and example were about to be withdrawn, her Heavenly Father saw fit to introduce her into such a course of discipline, even in the school of affliction, as under the divine blessing, greatly tended to her subjection and refinement. After a time of domestic trial, dear M.'s health became very delicate, with strong indications of consumption, during which period, her peculiarly susceptible mind, connected with a delicate nervous system, often yielded to feelings of discouragement; but I believe it was sweetly evident to others, that the Lord was near, carrying on his own work, and bringing her to an establishment on the one foundation."

The first letter, from which an extract is inserted, was addressed, two months after the decease of her

mother, to a near relative: the next was written, during her absence from home, for change of air, when symptoms of delicacy began to awaken the solicitude of her friends.

To E. J. W.

Wellingborough, *Twelfth Month* 13*th*, 1809.

My doubly endeared Cousin!

Thy cordial letter was very salutary to me, as a proof of thy continued affectionate sympathy, under the pressure of the present afflictive dispensation. . . . . What can we say, but that He who gives, has an undoubted right to take away, when and whatever He pleases; and since He has, in unerring wisdom, seen meet to deprive us of our most affectionate and tender mother, and to allot us a cup of suffering, Oh! that He may enable us, and our tenderly beloved surviving parent, to place our dependence on Him who alone is able to raise above the trials of the day; and whatever be our portion, humbly to submit, and "in every thing to give thanks." Excuse, my beloved cousin, these unexpected effusions of a heart overflowing with a grateful sense of thy kindness, and believe me, with the warmest affection, thy

Maria.

To E. T.

Leighton Buzzard, 18*th of Tenth Month*, 1810.

. . . . . My father and sister, ever solicitous for my welfare, promoted my complying with my cousin H. G.'s invitation, and accordingly I quitted the paternal roof, with sensations of deep regret; for I do assure thee, it was no small trial to me, to be so soon separated from my beloved sister, whose return I had anticipated with the most pleasing expectation, and in whose endearing society, I had promised myself so much enjoyment; but perhaps it may be wisely intended, to teach me still more, the uncertainty of all earthly pleasures, and I sincerely wish I may be enabled

to bear every dispensation of affliction, that an all-wise Providence may appoint me, with a becoming degree of resignation; though our prospect that seemed to be brightening, is again permitted to be overcast. However, there is still a great deal to claim our humble thankfulness; our relatives here are extremely kind, and my health is certainly better, and I hope to return to my dear, dear home, the latter end of next week; but of this I am uncertain.

. . . . . My dear E. will think that I fill my paper with little beside myself, but I must pour into thy sympathising bosom, some of the sensations which swell my own. This is the anniversary of the day that broke asunder one of the tenderest ties of nature, and deprived us of the most affectionate of mothers; long, very long, mayst thou enjoy that maternal tenderness, of which, we are for ever deprived . . . . . .

Thy sincerely affectionate friend and cousin,

M. Middleton.

MEMORANDA.

1811. When I consider, how little progress I have made in the spiritual journey, and how much I have remained an idle gazer on the light of heaven, I am ready to consider myself, indeed, an outcast from the heavenly fold. And shall I, who have received such innumerable mercies, such unmerited bounties from the fountain of goodness, wilfully quit the divine protection? O my Father! (if I may presume to use that endearing appellation) Thou considerest the weakness of our frame,—Thou rememberest that we are dust; bless me with a portion of thy life-giving presence, detach me more and more from the varied snares of life, and enable me to pursue, with unremitting ardour, the one thing needful.

"Feed me with food convenient for me." Oh, that this may more and more become the fervent prayer of my soul! Thou, O Father! who surveyest the inmost recesses of my heart, and before whom, my most secret inclinations stand unveiled, Thou knowest my real wants; be pleased to administer that food which is convenient for me; let me not repine, though it should be "the

bread of adversity, and the water of affliction." If Thou art graciously pleased to support me by thy sustaining presence, I will fear no evil, for thy favour is better than life, and thy loving kindness than ten thousand rivers of oil.

The following memorandum refers to the circumstance of their quitting their former residence, associated as it was with many interesting and affecting recollections, for another in the same town.

(Without date.) And am I then so soon to quit these scenes forever dear!—these tranquil scenes which have witnessed my sweetest pleasures,—which have beheld my deepest sorrows; where my heart has expanded with rapture, in the possession of innumerable blessings, and where it has poured forth its sighs and tears, under the pressure of deep calamity. I go—but Oh! let me cast my care on Him who clotheth the lilies of the field, and without whose knowledge, not even a sparrow falls to the ground. If I may but repose under the shadow of the mighty Rock, what need I fear! What shall I want, if the unchanging, the immutable One be my strong tower and my refuge. He, to whom the inmost thoughts of our hearts lie open, sees what is necessary for us, and though He is administering a cup of trial, may I be enabled to take it, with holy reverence, from his all bounteous hand, seeing that He does not willingly afflict the children of men. Oh! that my afflictions may fully answer the gracious purposes for which they were intended! Wean me, O Father! more and more from earth; enable me to view, with contempt, the most blandishing of its allurements, and humbly to direct the eye of hope towards futurity; and whenever it shall please Thee to cut the vital cord and dissolve this frail existence, receive my trembling soul, O Lord! into one of thy eternal mansions.

Twelfth Month. Oh! the varied, the delusive stratagems of our unwearied foe! How often are my best resolutions overwhelmed by the wily temptations of the power of darkness! Deliver me, O Lord! from the wretched captivity.

25th of Ninth Month, 1812. This morning, I discovered considerable impatience, on a very trivial occasion, in my behaviour to persons, towards whom it was peculiarly unbecoming. The whole of the day has been marked by too great levity, and indifference to the most important subjects; may I be enabled, on future occasions, to guard, with closer circumspection, the avenues of my heart!

To M. R.

Wellingborough, *Fourth Day Evening.*

My dear M.

It is so pleasant to compare notes occasionally, with respect to our simple but delightful studies, that I cannot help writing now and then, to tell thee how I go on. As we strolled through a furzy kind of common or sheep-walk, since our dear E. has gladdened our hearts with her enlivening presence, our eyes were attracted by the bright hue of the Agaricus Aurantius, which I had not before seen. This is the name, however, we gave, on attentive examination, to the specimen we brought home, and I think it answered the description given of this species, with a precision that marked its character decisively. I wish thou couldst assist me to discriminate accurately, between the two divisions of stem—hollow and solid, this being, I think, my principal difficulty; those arranged under the head solid, being frequently said to be cylindrical. But the great axiom, that "difficulties are of no weight against demonstrations," encourages me to persevere;—not, indeed, that I expect ever to attain much knowledge of the minute forms of beauty comprehended in the class Cryptogamia, but so much acquaintance with nature's works as is compatible with the proper discharge of various and more important duties, is highly desirable. If I were called upon to say, which are the pleasures that are the most free from earthly alloy, I would instantly name those which are derived from the contemplation of the works of nature and of providence: observe, I do not take into account those enjoyments which are not of earthly origin, but which flow only from the communion that is "with the Father and with the Son." These must always in-

finitely excel all others, in proportion as the Creator is above all that is created. . . . . .

Thy truly affectionate

M. M.

To B. H.

Wellingborough, *Ninth Month 21st*, 1813.

My beloved Aunt,

Though thy very kind letter has been answered by proxy, I cannot feel satisfied, now I have again rejoined the dear circle of domestic happiness, without saying for myself, how highly I value so sweet a proof of thy affectionate remembrance. It is now about three weeks since I returned from my long vagrancy, to the social joys of kindred and of home. Six weeks of it passed swiftly away with my dear friends at Kennington ; two amongst the kind friends at Uxbridge ; and two more under the hospitable roof of dear J. S. at Tottenham. The society there is very interesting. I paid several visits with much pleasure ; but to mention all the agreeable friends to whom I was introduced during my absence, would fill the sheet. Perhaps, E. told thee of our ride to Jordans, which occupied one morning whilst at Uxbridge. If thou imagine a rustic and neat meeting-house, situated in a sheltered glen, concealed on one side by a wood, whilst on the other, lies the tranquil spot of ground which contains the remains of Pennington, Penn and Ellwood, and many other departed worthies, thou wilt conceive the reflections with which we trod the venerable soil, whilst a variety of circumstances conspired to render them more exquisite. No sound of human habitation interrupted the solemn stillness of this resting place of death ; the day was very calm though cloudy, and the occasional breaking forth of the sunbeams, with now and then a silent shower of soft rain, heightened the effect. It was affecting, in a much greater degree than all the escutcheoned pomp of Westminster Abbey, though a visit to that too, was highly interesting ; but it produced very different feelings, and I could not but draw a comparison in my mind, between the turf graves of those pious, peaceable christians, and all the monumental splendour which loads the tombs of what the world calls heroes. We visited

many of the public edifices of our admirable and stately metropolis; but all its attractions, which are many, did not damp my love of country scenes and rural pleasures. Windsor Castle, which is indeed a fit residence for royalty, excited and gratified our curiosity; and the view from Richmond Hill of the silver meanderings of the beautiful Thames, charmed us exceedingly, and recalled Thomson's correct and elegant description of it. Our beloved father is much as usual; he unites in dear love to you all, with thy warmly attached and interested niece.

MARIA.

The following thoughts on the duty and advantages of mental cultivation, were committed to paper at the request of a friend.

At the present time, when the diffusion of knowledge is become an object of general attention, and when efforts are being made, on an extended scale, to carry the blessing of education into the lowest huts of poverty, does it not become more peculiarly the duty of those who occupy a somewhat higher station in society, to direct their energies to the cultivation of the mind,—to the expansion of those intellectual faculties, with which the great Author of our being has dignified his creature, man, and which were undoubtedly bestowed upon him for great and noble purposes, that he might employ them, under the regulating influence of religious principle, to the praise of his Creator, and to the improvement of his species.

The pursuit of laudable and useful science appears to be fraught with results of no ordinary importance; not only multiplying advantageous discoveries, but by the acquirement of languages, facilitating communication between the most remote regions of the earth, and thereby gradually preparing the way for the more complete fulfilment of the glorious promises of the gospel.

Some persons object, and perhaps with too much reason, that the acquisition of knowledge has frequently an injurious tendency upon the minds of young persons, who, imagining themselves prodigies of literature, become inflated with vanity, and render

themselves ridiculous and disgusting. This may sometimes be the case, though it is not unlikely, that persons who are vain of their intellectual attainments, would have been vain of something less honourable, had their understandings been suffered to remain unimproved. Let them only pursue their studies farther and farther, and they will find the fields of science so continually extending, and in every path so many precursors, who have left their puny achievments far behind, that they must discover much greater reason to be astonished and abashed at their own comparative littleness and ignorance, than to flatter themselves that they are wise.

Perhaps the best means of obviating the objection, would be to furnish a practical illustration, that the acquisition of very important branches of science, requires no abilities above the common level, and that diligent application and steady perseverance often effect much more than the dazzling, but irregular flights of genius. The increased pursuit of knowledge would naturally diminish the force of the temptation. By becoming less rare, it will appear more necessary, and not so imposing. It will be worn as an essential article of dress, of which propriety does not allow the neglect, rather than as an ornament to glitter and to dazzle.

But the good of mankind in general, is not the only advantage resulting from study. It invigorates the tone of the mind, and, next to the restraints of religion, furnishes the best preservative of virtue, by providing a sober and rational entertainment for those hours of leisure, which might otherwise be passed in the tumult of dissipation, or lost in the inanity of idleness. And certainly, to those who are, by wise regulations, excluded from the amusements of the gay, it would be highly desirable to become in some degree qualified to enjoy the society of the cultivated and intelligent.

1814.

To E. R.

Wellingborough, *Third Month 25th*, 1814.

. . . . . Thy reflections on the approach of the day of days,* were to me of forcible application, and I do sincerely wish the

* The anniversary of her own and her correspondent's birth-days.

future periods of my life, may be marked by a more steady pursuit of the only substantial good, of that "pearl of great price," compared with which, all the glittering enjoyments of a delusive world are lighter than vanity. Memory, with her faithful pencil, delineates the varied scenes of the fleeting years that are gone by, and would fain indulge of "dear departed hours, the sadly sweet remembrance;" and though much of the picture be shaded with a sombre tinge of sorrow, yet it is not destitute of many a fair and fragrant flower, appointed by our gracious Creator, to cheer and beautify the chequered mazes of this earthly wilderness, as well as to afford us an animating pledge of the unfading blossoms of that celestial paradise, which is brightened by a cloudless sun. Your very kind expression of sympathy with our beloved parent and ourselves, under the present dispensation of suffering, was very grateful. I notice what thou sayst respecting my visiting Hitchin, and am obliged by thy kind invitation to do so; but thou wilt see the propriety of our continuing at home, if by the exercise of filial duty, we can, in the smallest degree, alleviate afflictions, which it is out of our power to remove.

Thy affectionate friend,

M. M.

On the 12th of the Seventh Month, 1814, her venerable father was removed by death, under circumstances of a deeply affecting character.

For some years previously, he had been in a state of almost constant suffering, from the effects of a painful malady. This suffering, he bore with truly christian patience; but as the disorder continued to gain ground, and without any probability of its being subdued by other than surgical means, he resolved at length, to submit to an operation, and Sir Astley Cooper was accordingly sent for. He arrived on a First-day morning, attended by two other surgeons, just as the family reading was concluded. The portion of scripture that

had been read, the hundred and second psalm, was indeed peculiarly appropriate to such an exigency. Sir A. C. was afterwards heard to remark, that on entering the room, he was much impressed with the entire composure with which he was received, differing so widely from that which he was accustomed to witness on such occasions. The operation was skilfully and safely performed, and hopes were entertained of the beloved sufferer's restoration; but such was not the will of Him who doeth all things well; the vital powers became exhausted, and in about ten days after, the redeemed spirit returned unto God who gave it.

To E. R.

Wellingborough, *First Day Evening.*

My dear E. R.,

As this is now the only medium, through which we have it in our power to converse with those friends who have so lately cheered us with the sweets of social enjoyment, I cannot forbear to avail myself of it, just to tell thee, that our little visit at Hitchin is recurred to with much pleasure, and will long afford a topic of meditation and conversation, in that little solitary dwelling, which I know thy feeling heart will frequently induce thee ideally to visit. Many, my dear, were our sensations on returning to this dear abode, so recently stripped by the will of inscrutable wisdom, of its bright inhabitant, whose uniform tenderness was wont to diffuse happiness through our little circle, and who, amidst the severity of pain and anguish, could enter into every thing relating to the comfort of those around him. But why, my dear friend, should I sink thy spirits by a recital of our sorrows? Why do I not tell thee of the many remaining blessings, of which I am unworthy, daily dispensed by the bounteous Hand that clotheth the lilies of the field? Amongst the foremost of these, must be placed the friendship of those who are desirous of travelling in that path

which has conducted the righteous of all ages to a happy immortality, rugged though it often be, and shaded by many a cloud of adversity; yet, are not its light and comparatively momentary afflictions, infinitely overbalanced by that "eternal weight of glory," which irradiates, with ineffable splendour, its blessed termination! Oh! that we, my dear E., may be enabled to pursue it, and that the friendship we have long cherished, may ever be made subservient to our advancement, in that which alone can give it the stamp of unchangeable duration.

Thy ever affectionate,
MARIA MIDDLETON.

To M. T.

Wellingborough, 14*th of Seventh Month*, 1815.

MY DEAR COUSIN,

The communications of friendship must always be sweet to those who are capable of appreciating the value and tasting the delights, of that sacred connexion, but are they not peculiarly so, when the mind is surrounded by sorrowful reflections, which, agonising as they are, it loves to dwell upon and cherish? Be assured then, my dear M., that the sympathetic, the endearing language of fellow-feeling, that ran through thy last kind letter, was most welcome and gratifying to me. You and we have, indeed, been partakers of the same cup of bitterness: we have mourned, and must ever mourn our loss, by the removal of parents who were truly "worthy of double honour;" who, in their lives, exhibited a beautiful combination of christian virtues and graces, and, by their final close, furnished a glorious evidence of the sufficiency of that divine power, which is still able to extract the sting of death, and rob the grave of victory. They "were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided," but are undoubtedly become "fellow-citizens with the saints," dwelling within the pearl gates of the new and heavenly Jerusalem, and for ever employed in singing the praises of the Lamb, who was their leader and their salvation. John's description of this celestial city, to which thou alludes, is indeed highly beautiful. What an animating picture does it offer to the view!

I am at times desirous, that I may not rest satisfied with contemplating the excellencies of my departed parents, but that I may constantly endeavour to "walk by the same rule," and to "mind the same thing." This season is indeed to us, as well as you, fraught with melancholy recollections, and keenly revives those scenes of deep distress into which we were so lately plunged; but have we not all experienced the goodness of that divine power, which is alone able to support the mind under affliction, and to prepare in it a degree of resignation to his holy will.

Very affectionately thine,

Maria Middleton.

To E. W.

Wellingborough, 12*th of Eleventh Month*, 1817.

My dear E.,

It seems so long, since I tasted the pleasure of communing in this way with thee, that I gladly seize upon the proposition made to-day, in our little circle, to send you a packet. I do not know, my dear, whether I ever thanked thee for thy kindness in furnishing me with the names of the dubious grasses. I have looked mine over, and ticketed them accordingly. These pursuits, of course, are suspended during this season of the year, though I can assure thee, I do not fail to feel a degree of rising ardour, at the sight of the mosses, the lichens, the fungi, &c., that frequently attract my notice and admiration, and excite the silent, but hitherto unavailing exclamation,—Oh! that I did but understand you! The wish is all I can boast at present; but I am not without a secret hope, that if my dear E. was here, something more than fruitless wishes might be the result of our joint labours . . . . The mind, occupied with a long train of mournful reflections, and filled almost constantly with successive images of sadness, feels little inclination for many of those pursuits, into which it could once enter, with eagerness and delight; but those which relate to nature, and the wonderful display of divine power in the structure of its various works, as they are the most pure in

their kind, and the most free from human mixture, so they furnish a delicate enjoyment, to which we may occasionally turn, from the contemplation of a world, where our expectations are continually liable to disappointment, and where vice and misery meet us in all directions. Oh! that we may, in all things, be instructed, and be favoured to experience an establishment in that blessed fear, which is a fountain of life, preserving from the snares of death, that we may be preserved on the right hand and on the left, and be led in that path, which the vulture's eye hath not seen, nor the lion's whelp trodden it.

Who can refrain, my dear E., from joining in the general sorrow that is now dispensed to this nation, in the affecting and sudden removal of a princess, to whom we all looked with rising hope and expectation? Who would wish to suppress the feeling of deep and sincere sympathy with her afflicted partner, who appears to have exhibited an engaging picture of conjugal tenderness and affection? There is something peculiarly affecting in this stroke: may all its wise and gracious, though inscrutable purposes, be fulfilled, and the cup sanctified to those who have to drink most deeply of its bitterness! . . . . . .

M. M.

To E. R.

Wellingborough, *Eleventh Month 29th*, 1817.

. . . . Various, my dear E., have been the occupations that have passed upon "the many coloured wing of time," since we have been together, when the consoling and animating influence of friendship, and the pursuit of allowable pleasure, in the contemplation of nature's works, have been blended with the tear of bitter reflection on the "evils that are in the world," which, whilst they press closely upon us, seem to utter loudly the language, "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." But amidst all the dark shades of the picture, we have been consoled and animated, I would also hope, lastingly instructed, by the bright object offered to our view, in the "Memoirs of Dr. Buchanan." Our trio are, I think, agreed in concluding, that we have seldom read any biographical work with greater

interest, and I should think no reflecting mind could follow him, through all the changes of his eventful and laborious life, without feeling its best desires renewed, and its courage, in some degree, stimulated, to seek after an availing possession of a measure of that holy and confirming faith, which rendered him so eminently patient in tribulation, rejoicing in hope, and "abounding in the work of the Lord." It is delightful to contemplate men of various religious denominations, differing in their views on some points, yet walking by the same rule, and minding the same things; keeping their eye fixed upon their one great Head, and, after endeavouring to do his will on earth, going, as we must believe, to form a part of the innumerable multitude, that compose his triumphant and glorified church. . . . . .

Thy constant friend,

M. Middleton.

To E. W.

Wellingborough, *Third Month 4th*, 1818.

. . . . . Our feelings of regret in losing the sweet society of your dear fire-side, had arisen to such a height, that I am not certain whether they did not amount to something like murmuring; but thy remarks indicated a frame of mind so much more becoming, that we were instantly reminded, how highly and thankfully we ought to appreciate the comforts that have been enjoyed, instead of complaining that this enjoyment is interrupted. The maternal shelter of thy dear mother, and the truly sisterly kindness of our beloved cousins, have indeed been more consoling to our afflicted minds than I am able to express, and the recollection of it is very sweet. May we be disposed to enumerate, with grateful hearts, the many blessings that are still permitted us; but busy memory recalls those happy days, when all that is endearing in parental tenderness, awaited and welcomed our return, and thou wilt not wonder, my dear, that many an agonizing thought is connected with such pensive retrospections. But, even in privations which we must long keenly feel, we have abundant cause to adore that mercy which is unsearchable, and to rejoice that those, who were made meet for the divine presence, have been permitted to pass

from the storms and tempests of this uncertain state, into that blessed and unchangeable rest which is prepared for the righteous, in the paradise of God. . . . . Well, my dear E., we have not lived many years in this world, but long enough to know that it is a perplexed wilderness; we have already trod many rugged paths, and know not what is still before us. That, however, is in better ordering than our own, and whatever may be the vicissitudes, the afflictions, we may be called to endure, may they be so sanctified by the operations of divine grace, as to produce the fruits of the Spirit, and then we shall have cause to rejoice in tribulation, and in every thing give thanks. To thee, my dear, I shall not make apologies, because I can write with entire freedom. I trust the tender friendship which has descended to us from our dear parents, may ever continue to cheer our passage through time; may we render it subservient to the best of purposes,—

"And one in heart, in interest and design,
Gird up each other to the race divine."

M. M

To E. W.

Wellingborough, *Fourth Month 8th*, 1818.

. . . . . Thou askest, whether we consider the history of the rich man and Lazarus, as a parable or a real fact. I do not know that we ever considered it before; but it appears to us, to be as much a parable as that of the returning prodigal, the good Samaritan, &c.; a specimen of that beautiful and impressive mode of inculcating instruction, which was so frequently adopted by our Lord, wherein He enforces any doctrine by some striking illustration, drawn from probable circumstances and occurrences. . . . . I wish I could have sent you a pamphlet we have recently read; a sermon preached on the occasion of the death of our late lamented princess, by a celebrated Baptist preacher of Leicester, Robert Hall. I think you would have been pleased with the reflections he makes upon that affecting event, and with the sober and christian piety, that appears to breathe through the discourse. A sermon (if it can be called a sermon) on the same occasion,

by Chalmers, was also sent to us; but this we did not at all like; it seems to savour more of the politician than of the christian minister. . . . . .

Thy affectionate,
MARIA MIDDLETON.

To E. W.

Wellingborough, *Fourth Month 29th*, 1818.

MY DEAR E.,

I take this opportunity of returning thy book, for the use of which I am much obliged. Mensuration of solids has afforded me some hours of pleasing occupation, and the last sum was not finished till this morning. . . . . I have been thinking about the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, since thou mentioned it. It does not appear to me, that it will bear the literal application made of it by M. Fletcher. It is vain for finite mortals, to attempt to lift the veil, which divine wisdom and goodness have drawn over the sublime and awful mysteries of the unseen world; but thus much, perhaps, we are warranted in believing, that the angelic intelligences, who surround the heavenly throne, know at least as much of the works of their great Creator in this lower world, as may furnish them with an additional subject of adoration and praise. This opinion seems to be supported by a passage in Job, where the great Author of nature, after a magnificent description of the creation, says, "The sons of God shouted for joy;" which infers, they were witnesses of that great work; and farther, by our blessed Lord, when he says, "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." See also 1 Cor. iv. 9, and 1 Tim. v. 21. There is, however, a passage in the Revelations, xiv. 10, that seems to favour the idea of the blessed spirits knowing something of the evil world; but these are mysteries we may safely leave in the ordering of wisdom that cannot err; happy if we may be found striving to enter in at the strait gate, rather than curiously questioning about things that are concealed from us. My dear E. will excuse my prolixity upon this subject, and tell me her thoughts respecting it. . . . . .

Thy constantly affectionate,
MARIA MIDDLETON.

To E. W.

Wellingborough, *Tenth Month 28th*, 1818.

. . . . . We are obliged by the extracts from the correspondence of E. Tozer, and return them herewith. It is delightful to see a communion of spirit maintained between persons who differ from each other in many points of belief; it is so compatible with that diffusive principle of christian love, which encircles in its wide embrace, all the living members of the universal church. We have read more than half of "Richard Claridge," and feel indebted to our dear cousins for introducing to our notice so truly instructive a work. The remarkable circumstances attending the life of this pious and exemplary christian, are more than interesting, and his various writings so valuable, that we cannot help wondering, we do not hear them more frequently spoken of. Instances of persons being willing to lay all their pecuniary advantages, and the still more flattering allurements of literary distinction, at the foot of the cross, are rare in this age, though they were frequently found at the time our Society was first established. On reading the writings of our early Friends, the mind cannot but be forcibly struck with the contrast that is formed, by comparing the present state of the Society with that primitive simplicity of manners, that, may we not say, apostolic purity of life, which characterised many of its earliest members: these purchased the truth by large sacrifices, and proportionably appreciating its value, went on increasing in strength, until they were endued with such a measure of faith, as enabled them to quench the violence of fire, wax valiant in fight, and turn to flight the armies of the aliens. May such examples, my dear E., be a means of stimulating us to "watch and be sober," seeing the many proofs we have, that there is no safety without it. . . . . .

Thy affectionate,

M. Middleton.

To E. R.

Wellingborough, *Eleventh Month*, 1819.

My beloved E.,

I hope it is neither the desire to offer customary words of condolence, nor the vain expectation of being able to suggest any

consoling reflection, that will not present itself in a much more forcible and appropriate manner to your minds, that induces me to take the pen, but a wish simply to convince our beloved friends, that we are not unmindful of them in the hour of affliction. It would, indeed, be the height of ingratitude, could we possibly forget those, who, on occasions of mourning, have administered the balm of sympathy, and soothed our sorrows with the assiduity of tender friendship ; and though we have never experienced the separation of the fraternal tie, since we were of an age to comprehend its extent, or to appreciate its value, yet the waves of affliction have so often passed over us, that we cannot be unprepared to participate in your sorrow. I would not, my dear friend, rudely touch a string that must long continue to vibrate in your bosoms, nor rashly intrude upon the privacy of that calmly mournful feeling, which is perfectly compatible with resignation to the divine will. We have indeed abundant cause to acquiesce in every appointment of unerring wisdom, seeing that our own views are so finite, and that He alone who knoweth all things, can determine what is best ; but more especially when those who have been afflicted on earth, are mercifully unclothed of mortality, and permitted to become inhabitants of that city which needeth not the light of the sun nor of the moon. Oh ! that the various privations we have severally experienced, may tend to unbind our affections from earth, and to elevate them to those objects which are enduring and eternal ! We shall be truly glad, my dear E., to hear from either of you, when you feel inclined again to take up the pen.

Your nearly sympathising and affectionate friend,

M. Middleton.

CHAPTER III.

1820—1826. Removal to Southampton—Letters—First appearance as a minister—House of Refuge—Letters and memoranda—Visit to Channel Islands—Illness—Letters and memoranda—Poetry—Letters.

In the summer of 1820, Maria Middleton and her sister passed some time at Southampton, and in the Isle of Wight. The beneficial effects on their health, derived from this visit to the southern coast, naturally suggested the consideration of a permanent removal to the former place. But the change was one, too serious in its nature, to be made without mature deliberation, nor could they venture on so important a step, as that of quitting the place of their birth, for a residence in another part of the country, without earnestly desiring that the Lord would be pleased to direct them in this matter, and choose their inheritance for them. Enabled, at length, to arrive at what they believed to be a right decision, they left Wellingborough in the spring of 1821, and settled at Southampton. Here, a new and enlarged sphere of usefulness opened before them, affording, in connexion with other circumstances, satisfactory evidence, that in this movement, they had not sought in vain for right direction.

To E. W.

Southampton, 16*th of Twelfth Month*, 1822.

I hope my precious E. believes, that my heart is more true to the dictates of affection, than the pen has been prompt to acknowledge, or I should entertain a fear, that she would not look very favourably on this appearance of her tardy correspondent.

But I will not lose time in apologies for neglect, because I trust we know that we do indeed love each other, and this love, my dear cousin, is tenderly felt at the present time for you, accompanied with such a degree of sympathy as I am capable of. Deeply and lastingly your hearts will, must feel, the separation of this tender and cherished tie; but has not the painful stroke been accompanied with every consolatory circumstance? Mixed indeed is the cup that is put into the hands of mortals; but is it not a cup of blessing to those who desire, however feebly, that the divine will may be done? Oh! that no opposing disposition in us, may prevent our becoming of that number, to whom the sweet promise is given, that all things shall work together for their good. But then, there must be a constant pressing after a state of conformity with that blessed will; and alas! how many are the impediments, whilst encompassed with the infirmities of our frail and sinful nature. The power of divine grace, however, remains to be sufficient; may we be increasingly engaged to seek for its heavenly support and guidance! Why do I write thus, my dear E.? Not because thou hast need of advice from me, or that I am capable of offering it to any, but from a feeling of my own many and great deficiencies, and a fresh conviction, that there is but one way, that of complete subjection, whereby we must hope to experience the great work of sanctification to go on. . . . . .

Thy tenderly attached,

M. Middleton.

To M. W.

Southampton, 21*st of First Month*, 1823.

. . . . . We are returned to our sick-ward up stairs, but hope it will not be for long, as the prospect looks somewhat brighter than it did last week, when it was really discouraging; but we must not leave off hoping, nor the endeavour to trust in that power and goodness which can, at any time, open the springs of healing, and in afflicting, will sustain, if there is but a sincere desire after perfect resignation. Oh! if this blessed state were but our habitual experience, how much useless toiling and contriving would be spared; and surely, we ought not to find it difficult to

repose entirely on that will, which is not only unerring in wisdom, but unlimited in mercy. Alas! we are ready enough to admit in theory, that the Judge of all the earth doeth right; but when shall we practically evince this belief, by our cheerful and thankful acquiescence in all that He is pleased to appoint and permit? When shall we be able, from the heart, to say

"Thy will, in all things, I approve,
Exalted, or cast down;
Thy will, in every state, I love,
And even in thy frown."

M. M.

To E. and M. R.

Southampton, 30*th of Third Month*, 1823.

My beloved E. and M. R.,

It was my wish to salute you in this manner, on the day that marked your entrance into another year, but was prevented by the recollection that the post would not serve; and though it may appear rather awkward to send a birth-day greeting on the wrong morning, I cannot altogether regret the circumstance, as it enables me to thank my dear E. for her most friendly communication, just received. When it was brought from the hands of the post-man, bearing the sweet inscription of "Peace," my heart responded to the welcome gratulation, and I can but answer, "Peace." May peace, my beloved friends, be upon and around your dwelling, shedding its benign influence, not only on the present, but on every succeeding year of life; that peace which the world giveth not, and which is as the shadow of a cloud by day, and as a pillar of light by night, sheltering the mind from the beam of prosperity, and cheering it amidst the darkness of sorrow or adversity. Three times ten years have not passed over us, without producing the impression, that there is need of something to stay the mind, amidst the vicissitudes of this mortal state. Oh! that we may be increasingly disposed to seek daily for a habitation in the only sure Refuge; and then we shall feel a comfortable assurance of all things working together for good. We

know not how short or how long may be the future, or what may be the events it will unfold; but all this is in the ordering of wisdom that cannot err, and of love that knows no limit; and what can we desire more than to be the blessed subjects of this righteous government! My dear E. need never apologise to her friend for unbosoming freely, whenever she feels inclined to do so. Be assured, I highly value the confidence of friendship, and entirely concur in the sentiment, that where love is, there is liberty. May we, my dear friends, endeavour to improve our intercourse, by stimulating each other in the pursuit of what is most important. A tie of close affection binds our hearts to yours, and I trust every revolving year will only add to its strength. . . . . .

Truly yours,

M. Middleton.

In the spring of 1823, Maria Middleton first spoke in public, in the character of a minister of the gospel. It is to be regretted, that no allusion to this event, is to be found in any of her memoranda or letters of that date; but this deficiency is, in degree, supplied by some striking references to it, in subsequent parts of her diary.

And here, it may be interesting to inquire, what were the effects produced on her general character and habits, by the exercise of an office, which, among christians generally, is restricted exclusively to men;—whether it tended to withdraw her from the duties which peculiarly devolve on her sex, or in the slightest degree, to mar that delicacy and refinement of mind, which, in combination with true religion, constitute the loveliest ornament of the female character. To those who were intimately acquainted with her, we may confidently appeal, for an answer to this inquiry. So far from such being the result, it may, on the contrary,

be truly said, that whilst "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord," she was exemplary and diligent in the performance of her domestic and relative duties, and that whilst she was not ashamed of the testimony of her Lord, her demeanour was at all times gentle, retiring and unassuming.

To H. M.

Southampton, 14*th of Ninth Month*, 1823.

My beloved Sister,

. . . . . What a favour was it to part under such a comforting, strengthening influence! and how unworthy was such a poor, faithless creature as myself, to partake of sustaining bread, blessed and broken, as we cannot doubt, by the great Master! Surely, it ought to humble us as into the dust. My poor mind had been so tossed and shaken, as to be ready to exclaim, "I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me;" but what a mercy, to be permitted to repose, though it may be but for a season, on the supporting evidence, that the Lord's mercies are indeed new every morning! We have found it so, my precious sister. Have we not been wonderfully kept above the waves and the billows, even when they have lifted up their heads proudly, as ready to devour? May we then seek after a grain of that living faith, which will enable us to trust in Him, who "sitteth upon the flood," who "sitteth King for ever," and say, with the sweet hymn,—

> "He, who has helped us hitherto,
> Will help us all our journey through;
> And give us daily cause to raise
> New Ebenezers to his praise."

Do not think I am got up into any mount, for indeed I seem stripped of almost every thing, but the painful sense of infirmities; but to be permitted to feel a degree of quiet, is a favour we ought to commemorate. . . . . Write soon, my very dear sister, and send thy address to thy tenderly affectionate,

M. Middleton.

To H. M.

Southampton, *Ninth Month* 19*th*, 1823.

My beloved Sister,

Thy letter was grateful as cold water to the thirsty traveller: the allusion applies only to its refreshing, reviving efficacy, for certainly it was in no other respect to be compared to *cold* water. Delightful it is to me, to receive good accounts of one so dear to my heart's warmest affections, and the desire of communicating frequently in this way with each other, prompts me to begin a letter, which may not be ended to-day. What lovely weather for you to begin your travel! thy M. M. rejoices in it on your account. When thou receivest this, I suppose you will be at Kingsbridge for the Quarterly Meeting. Do write, my dear, as soon as thou canst, and tell me all about your engagements, for I want to follow you mentally from place to place. The great Preserver will, I doubt not, be with you, and strengthen you for every exigence, renewing your faith and patience, day by day; for indeed, He is good, and "his compassions fail not."

On Third-day, S. L. and R. came to tea, and a visit of comfort indeed it was. It would do thee good, to know what a sweet opportunity, this dear, motherly friend had before they left me. She also communicated to us very instructively, near the close of the little meeting on Fourth-day.

As to the Penitentiary, I do not know what to say; things are no way settled, and I am afraid they will remain afloat for some time. *Ladies* are very unmanageable. It does not seem as if we could quite decline acting. I have been three times, this week, with E. L., who is a much more suitable colleague for us than the others. The more one goes, the more every feeling of commiseration and pity is awakened, and there are some interesting proofs of penitence, or at least of sensibility, in some of the women; but how we are to do about a committee, I know not. Certain it seems, that the institution cannot go on without one suitably. . . . . .

Thine tenderly,

M. Middleton.

The subject mentioned in the preceding letter, being

afterwards frequently adverted to, it seems proper to observe, that in the establishment of that useful and now flourishing institution, "The Hants Female Penitentiary," H. and M. M. took a deep and lively interest. In allusion to their efforts on its behalf, one who was herself an active and valuable coadjutor, thus writes:—"They were among the number of its most strenuous supporters; and indeed, at one period of its infancy, when, from various circumstances, its very existence was in danger, they unremittingly persevered in their watchful care, and we have ever considered, that our two beloved friends, under the divine blessing, by their faithful counsels and judicious recommendations, preserved it through that period of great difficulty."

To E. W.

Southampton, *Twelfth Month* 19*th*, 1823.

My dear E.,

Though we have not communed in this way for some time, thou and our other dear cousins are often in our affectionate remembrance, and I feel disposed to send thee something in the shape of a letter, though it may be, that much of the lively kind may not be contained in it. Do not, however, suppose we are gloomy, for indeed, in the daily favours and mercies we receive, there is a constant call for cheerful thankfulness; though when we are sometimes enabled to review these, the consciousness of falling so far short of the returns due to the great Giver, brings a feeling of sadness, and affords matter for painful retrospection, and so far as this may be made subservient to the purpose of stimulating our endeavours, it is well; but let us not discouragingly dwell on the things that are behind, but rather press forward toward the mark for the prize, not withholding that which is called for, but accounting it all joy, if we are found worthy to suffer in any,—the smallest degree, for his sake, who, in unutterable love and mercy

"gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." I do not know, my beloved cousin, why I have written this, for indeed, not a word of it was before me when I took up the pen, but as I write, a desire seems to accompany my mind, that we may each experience a willingness wrought in us, to surrender ourselves completely into the divine hand, that we may be fashioned according to the good pleasure of Him, whose right it is, to reign in the hearts of his people, and, blessed be his name, He is not requiring that which He does not give ability to perform, but is still graciously revealing Himself to the most unworthy of those, who are seeking to become his depending children, as strength in weakness, and a present help in every needful time, so that there is abundant cause for us to trust his love and mercy, who is the tender Shepherd of his sheep.

Believe me very affectionately,

M. Middleton.

Twelfth Month 31*st.* In reviewing the past year, and the numberless mercies which have been bestowed, may I not say, "All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth!" He has been pleased to restore me from sickness, to give me increasing views of the excellency of the truth as it is in Jesus, and to confirm my feeble faith, by the experience, that his promises remain to be, yea and amen, for ever. And Oh! may the year now close, under a lively feeling of gratitude to the great Giver of all our spiritual and temporal blessings, and under a deeply humiliating view of my own unworthiness, and of the innumerable transgressions which have marked its course; and, in the opening of another, may there be a looking unto Him who seeth the end from the beginning, who only knoweth the varied trials and temptations it may bring; and who is infinitely able to deliver out of them all. I desire reverently to thank Him for the past, and to commit the future entirely to his disposal, confiding in the gracious care of a superintending Providence.

First Month 8*th*, 1824.—And now, being brought into another year, permit me, O Lord! humbly and earnestly to ask of Thee, the blessing of thy guidance and protection, that so,

I may be enabled to walk circumspectly before Thee, redeeming the time, and seeing it has been permitted to open with a particular and painful trial, be pleased to grant, that this may be made a means of drawing me more closely to Thyself, and of conforming me, more and more, to the example of thy beloved Son, our blessed Saviour, who was made perfect through suffering, "who made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant," and "became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Oh! bring to this death of the cross, everything within me that opposes itself to the coming of the Redeemer's kingdom, that so, He may reign and rule in my heart, "over all, God blessed for ever. Amen."

Having been led to look back on many parts of my past conduct, wherein I have been betrayed into thoughts, words and actions, inconsistent with that holiness, whereunto we are called, it has appeared to me desirable, to make occasionally some memorandums, which might tend to remind me of the constant necessity for watching unto prayer, and which may also serve to lay open the evils of my own heart, and the many subtilties of self love; and if, by recording some circumstances, I may be led to look closely into the dealings of divine Providence with me, and seek, in every chastening, to hear "the rod and who hath appointed it," fresh occasion may be administered, to trust in the Lord, and to give thanks unto Him, inasmuch as He is pleased to correct in measure, and in the midst of judgment, to remember mercy. Being, at this time, under trial, from what I apprehend to be a misconstruction in the minds of some I love, Oh! that it may be permitted to work in me, all that is designed, and that I may be willing to bow under it, and seek to have everything in myself removed, that is contrary to the nature of christian love, remembering the example of Him, "who, when He was reviled, reviled not again." And, if there has been any cause, by me administered, for the enemy to exalt himself, Oh! that I may seek, in earnest prayer, to have it shown unto me, and removed by the power of divine grace.

To E. T.

Southampton, *First Month* 17*th*, 1824.

My beloved Cousin,

Finding thou art now making one of the pleasant group, assembled by the fireside of our dear relatives, I do not feel able to let the packet go, without a small attempt to testify the love that warms my heart towards thee. Very pleasant hast thou been to me in days that are fled, and the remembrance is sweet. A strong feeling of attachment then united us, and it is now comforting and strengthening to feel, that the varied and changing circumstances of intervening time, have in no degree weakened the tie. This is indeed, my dear, a world of mixture; and well will it be for us, to be seeking daily after that preserving influence, which only can steady the mind amidst all its fluctuations and agitations, and finally bring, if the great work be but mercifully accomplished, into that state of rest and peace, where, as Bishop Horne beautifully expresses it, "There is no more sea." What a simple and striking illustration of that perfect security from evil, and repose from toil, which shall be enjoyed by those who, in unutterable mercy, are admitted into the Redeemer's kingdom! Thou wilt accept this in love, written not because of any attainment of my own, for who is so feeble in the pursuit of substantial good as thy poor friend . . . . . .

M. M.

First Month 21*st*. "O! give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for his mercy endureth for ever." "To Him who alone doeth great wonders, for his mercy endureth for ever" Wondrous things indeed, will He work for those who are willing, in simplicity and resignation, to commit their cause into his holy hand, proving Himself to be still a refuge for the poor,—a refuge for the needy in his distress. Let me then, a poor feeble worm, endeavour, more and more, to trust a gracious Providence in all things; resigning myself completely to the disposal of a faithful Creator.

To M. R.

Southampton, *Third Month* 6*th*, 1824.

My beloved M. R.,

Thy letter, by J. T.'s parcel, was most welcome. Think, how delighted we were, to unseal our respective portions of the valuable

budget. They came to us one evening, like a beam from afar, and made our hearts glad. The various matter contained in thine, my dear, could not fail of giving me pleasure. Thou knowest, I love to hear what thou art doing, and whither going, and how it fares with thee every way. . . . . Various states, we must expect to experience, and not a few of suffering, I believe, if ever we come to know a steady progression in the right way. There is so much to be reduced in us, before we can advance happily in that "path which no fowl knoweth," and so much to oppose our entrance into it, both from our own wayward nature, and the aspect of things without, that thy poor friend is at times ready to fear, the anchor should not be kept; but this will not do, we must endeavour to lay fast hold of the hope that is set before us, and commit ourselves to the care of the good Shepherd. Oh! can anything be lost that is in his keeping? But the great thing is, to be willing that He shall keep us,—that He shall lead us wherever and into whatsoever He pleases, even to the death of everything that self delights to feed upon. Happy are they who are subject, completely subject, to the forming hand! May this be more and more my experience, and then, in the abasement of the creature, divine grace will have the victory. Surely, my dear friend, we ought to welcome every suffering, that may be made instrumental to so blessed a result. . . . . .

M. M.

The following letter refers to a religious visit paid by Hannah Middleton, to the islands of Guernsey and Jersey. Maria accompanied her thither, but not in the capacity of a minister, the meeting to which she belonged, not having recognised her as such, until the following year.

To M. R.

Southampton, *Eighth Month 26th*, 1824.

. . . . . Thou wilt believe, my dear M., the late visit to the Islands, was attended with feelings of various and differing character. The prospect so formidable to my beloved H. M.,

could not fail to awaken a sympathetic feeling for her in my heart, as far as I was capable of it, and it was a great comfort to see her united in the work, with so desirable and valuable a companion. I cannot tell thee how much thou and dear E. were present to my mind, particularly during our voyage, and passing from one island to the other; the scenes, by which we were surrounded, were so entirely adapted to your taste. We went by a steam vessel from this place, going on board in the evening, and in about two hours, passed the Needles. The increased motion of the vessel, soon apprized us that we were getting out to sea, but as we were not sick, we remained a considerable time on deck, watching the phosphoric illumination of the water; but it was when we came up from our berths, at four the next morning, that we wanted you to gaze with us upon a scene, which, I certainly may be allowed to say, was glorious. Imagine us, then, dashing rapidly through a majestically swelling sea, which spread itself, in extended magnificence, around us; its bright blue waters sparkling in the light of the clear sky, by which they were canopied, and on one side, kindling into liquid gold, under the beams of the sun, just emerging from his ocean bed. On our left, lay Cape La Hogue and a line of French coast, enlivened by the white sails of a vessel standing for Cherbourg. Nearer us, was the rocky and barren island of Alderney, upon whose craggy coast, the breakers were tossing up their foam; and ahead, the distant high land of Guernsey, dimly discovered, like a light cloud on the surface of the water. The view of it, as we approached, was very imposing. The town extends to a great length along the shore, and rises fancifully up the hills, which form a fine back ground, adorned with country residences, interspersed with trees. At each extremity of the town, the land runs out into a point, where castles are built for the defence of the roads, and above the whole, near the summit of the hill, rises the fort or citadel, which is a strong fortification, and regularly garrisoned by troops; indeed, Government appears to have spared no expense, in protecting these islands, now all that remains to the crown of Great Britain, of her ancient Norman possessions. The coast of both Jersey and Guernsey is bristled with cannon, threatening destruction to an enemy, who might attempt to effect a landing.

We were a week in Guernsey, and were most hospitably entertained at the house of our valued friend, E. R. The islanders, who reside in the country, appear to be a simple race, living on their own little farms, and, in the absence of what *we* call accommodations, possessing everything they require to make them independent and comfortable: they speak a dialect of French. In the town, there are some interesting and well-regulated public institutions. There are many curious peculiarities in the legislation and customs of the islands, which I must not here digress into. The privileges which they enjoy, in being exempt from all taxation, by enabling them to carry on a free trade with all nations, are the means of filling them with variety of character, and with the productions of distant countries. Jersey is the largest, and is considered, the finest island, but as we were only there two nights, we did not see so much of the interior. The coast, however, is very bold and striking, presenting a tremendous aspect to the mariner who is unaccustomed to it;—a range of rocky cliff, broken into abrupt fragments, and the neighbouring parts of the sea rendered terrific, by huge masses of rock, many of which are nearly covered at high water. There are four members of our Society, and several individuals who attend the meeting, but are not in membership. We went to see them in the evening, and were greatly interested. They left their labour in the field, to meet us in a rustic cot, where lives an aged man, with his wife and sister. This estimable character has been, for a number of years, faithfully supporting a testimony against the use of arms, for which he has twice suffered banishment. Several of their neighbours came in and joined us, and the sweet feeling which was amongst them, was truly comfortable . . . . . .

Believe me, with tender love, thine,

MARIA MIDDLETON.

To E. W.

Southampton, *Ninth Month 26th*, 1824.

MY DEAR E.,

I wished to have acknowledged thy acceptable letter, during the time of your late residence at Harrogate, but having been of late more than usually unfit for this employ, have suffered the time

to pass on, until I conclude your little party has quitted that spot, to mix in a more bustling scene at York. It was very pleasant to get a letter from thee, and to picture the fair group surrounding the writing-table, or turning the amusing page, or wandering amongst the well known haunts which we have, in days past, explored together. So deceptive, however, are our impressions of the lapse of time, that I started at the mention of ten years, and could scarcely convince myself, that the decimal of a century had rolled over us, since we scaled the crags of Brimham, and gathered flowers in Dr. Jacques' plantations. I suppose his Scotch firs continue to rear their branchless shafts, through all the changes of time and season; whilst the sweet little polygala and lovely blue-bell still decorate their roots, and have courted the hand of many a passing loiterer, since those days. There is something very affecting to the mind, in comparing the unvarying and tranquil operations of nature, through so many successive seasons, with the agitations which have marked the moral world, or with the variety of scenes and feelings which have occupied our individual attention, in the same period. What a comfort, however, to reflect, that there is a state, where goodness as well as happiness, is unmixed and permanent. . . . . .

M. Middleton.

1824. *Twelfth Month* 31*st.* Although the design, expressed at the beginning of this year, has not been fulfilled, by a written record of its various scenes and circumstances, yet in looking back to the many interesting events which have marked its course, no language is adequate to express the loving kindness of the Lord, who has brought me safely to its close, who has preserved me in many dangers, sustained in many trials; on occasions of importance, proved Himself to be "Wonderful, Counsellor," and so encompassed me with mercies, that I may indeed exclaim with the psalmist, "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness, and thy paths drop fatness." Oh! that the remembrance of all the unmerited blessings which have been bestowed, may stimulate me to greater diligence, in the pursuit of those things that are excellent, to a more active and faithful discharge of every duty towards a gracious Creator, and towards my fellow-creatures; looking singly

unto Him, who only can qualify for any service, and whose must be the praise.

1825. *First Month 3rd.* Confined by a painful attack of illness, and my strength greatly reduced, but in unutterable kindness, sustained in a degree of quiet dependence on the invisible Arm; and at times enabled, through the power of redeeming love, to rejoice in tribulation, and to acknowledge, that it is good to be afflicted. Took leave yesterday of a sailor boy, (the son of a Friend,) on whose account I had felt greatly interested. Gave him, on paper, a few friendly hints for the regulation of his conduct, in a situation of peculiar danger, from the temptations to evil, by which he is surrounded. Being First-day, he stayed our family reading, when the hundred and seventh psalm was read, and afterwards, I was engaged to commend this interesting little wanderer, to the care and keeping of the great and good Shepherd, in a few short petitions. My dear sister also addressed him with instructive counsel, encouraging his young mind to put its trust in the Lord.

(Without date.) Continued more or less an invalid, during the whole of this month; and in the course of it, met with some things which caused me great pain, from the unkindness or ingratitude of a person, from whom I had cause to expect far other treatment. Oh! that it may tend to deepen me in that humility and abasedness of self, of which I stand so much in need. But, alas! the subtilty of self-love, betrays us into innumerable evils, and so artfully winds itself into our actions, that we had need to say more often than the day, "Cleanse Thou me from secret faults."

Instructed, during my illness, by many passages in a book, entitled, "The Saints' eternal Felicity," translated from the Latin of Bellarmine, lent to me by a dear and highly-valued friend, whose visits to my sick chamber, were often times of comfort and instruction, and should be ranked among the many mercies which distinguished this time of trial, when all the alleviations of soothing tenderness were permitted me, in the affectionate assiduities of my beloved sister, and a few truly kind friends.

Second Month 4th. Got to meeting, for the first time this year, and found renewed cause, to commemorate the goodness of Him who bringeth down and raiseth up, and who is worthy to be

adored in all his dispensations ; for we know that his judgments are right, and that in very faithfulness, He doth afflict us ; therefore, we esteem all his precepts, concerning all things, to be right.

6*th*, *First-day.* In the evening, heard some painful things, relative to the conduct of an individual, on whose account we are much interested ; one, who possesses many qualities, which, if happily brought under the regulating influence of the divine fear, might not only adorn, but enrich society ; but who appears to be in great danger, of making shipwreck of faith and of a good conscience, on the fatal rock of sophistical speculation, may I not say, of a refined infidelity. Oh ! that we may be favoured, in all our association with him, with that preservation, which only can keep us from the many transformations of evil, and enable us to detect the fallacy of what appears to be arrayed in brilliant colours. "Set a watch, O Lord ! before my mouth, keep the door of my lips," that I sin not with my tongue.

7*th*, *Second-day.* Thy mercies, O Lord ! are new every morning. How unutterable is thy love to thy poor erring creatures ! How many gracious means dost Thou employ, to bring them to the saving knowledge of Thyself ! This morning, we heard that the person alluded to in the memorandum of yesterday, had met with an alarming accident, by the running away of a spirited horse ; but although so stunned by the fall, as to remain some time in an unconscious state, yet through the preserving care of divine Providence, not a bone is broken, and, we trust, no serious injury sustained. Oh ! that it may be the occasion of exciting him to think of his ways ; that so, by application to Him who only can give the victory, his feet may be inclined unto the Lord's testimonies.

8*th*, *Third-day.* Called on —— with Dr. L. ; found him much recovered from the effects of the violent shock received in the fall. R. L. made some very pertinent observations, on the remarkable preservation that had been extended ; but, though, I trust, there was some sensibility of the mercy, yet I greatly fear the object of it, is not permanently awakened to serious reflection. Retired at night, rather disquieted in mind, in the consideration of what is so very painful ; but found a degree of comfort, in reading the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew,

especially in those words of the Saviour, "He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

9th, Fourth-day. Awoke in the morning, with a comforting conviction, that however the ways of man may be perverted, and the imagination of the thoughts of his heart be evil, yet the counsels of divine Wisdom are all faithfulness and truth; that all his dispensations are part of a beautiful and harmonious system, regulated by an unerring and merciful hand. May we not then, renew our trust and our confidence, and remember the words of our blessed Lord, "What I do, thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter." Went to meeting, where there was an awful feeling of the importance of preparation for the solemn and final change, seeing we "know neither the day nor the hour, wherein the Son of man cometh." In conversation afterwards with some friends, suffered myself to speak with too much warmth, on a subject of moment to them, which it appeared to me, they treated too lightly. Regretted afterwards the *manner* of speaking, though I felt relieved, in some degree, by the discharge of a duty.

11th, Sixth-day. Much occupied, in the morning, with the cases of some poor persons. Before dinner, took a delightful ride with my friend E. L., and much enjoyed the peaceful scenes of nature, and the smiling indications of spring; the young lambs reposing on the soft grass, and troops of deer feeding in a beautiful park, whilst the thrush was beginning to try his "wood notes wild," in anticipation of a more genial season.

13th, First-day. In our morning meeting, some petitions raised to the Father of mercies, that He would be pleased to make us partakers of the rich blessings of his immutable covenant; and a degree of capacity received, to offer praises to his great name. In the evening, had some young people at our house; and was favoured to feel a degree of peaceful tranquillity.

To E. and M. R.

Southampton, *Third Month 26th*, 1825.

My dear Friends,

There is something so interesting in the return of a period important to us all,* that it feels like a part of the duty of it, to

* The anniversary of her own and correspondents' birth-day.

remember those, who, through most of the past years of life, have been numbered amongst my loved and valued friends. Well, my dears, many swiftly revolving suns have rolled over us, and where are we now? Perhaps, this is the inquiry that befits this solemn season, for such it must be to all who feel the awfulness of life,—the value of the gift, and the uncertainty of its continuance. If we look back upon the path we have trodden, what a multitude and variety of reflections crowd upon the mind! whether we look at the pleasures tasted,—the sorrows dispensed,—the dangers that have been escaped, or the countless mercies which have so strewed our path, that, amidst all the vicissitudes of day and night, summer and winter, we may well exclaim, "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness, and thy paths drop fatness." And now, what shall we render to the great Giver for all his benefits? Shall we not take the offered cup of salvation, mingled, as it is, by the hand of infinite wisdom and perfect love, and call upon his name? The cup which our Heavenly Father is pleased to give us, shall we not drink it, of whatever ingredients composed? He knows best what is most salutary, and, like a skilful physician, proportions and modifies the medicine, according to every varying case and circumstance; designing, in all things, to accomplish the great work of our purification from those earthly mixtures, which impede the communion of the soul with her holy Creator. Oh, then! may we yield ourselves, fully, passively, unreservedly, to the discipline of the divine hand; accounting it an unspeakable favour, to be chastened by One who knoweth our frame, and remembereth that we are dust, and whose fatherly compassions fail not. May we be willing, not only to yield ourselves to, but patiently to abide under, the forming hand; and then we shall assuredly know, that He who will not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax, is still able to bring forth judgment unto victory, in all those, who, in child-like simplicity, depend upon Him, and, in unquestioning obedience, seek to follow Him. . . . . I know not, my dear friends, what may be your present feelings; but in tender affection, and with, I trust, some sense of my own lamentable weakness, it seemed in my heart to desire, that we may all be encouraged to press after that which is most excellent, and

which only will endure the storms and tempests of time. These, we must expect to attend our path through this world; and, indeed, it is well for us that it should be so, so inclined are we, to take up our rest amidst the pleasant things, that are often permitted to cheer and refresh us. . . . . May the coming year be a season of renewed endeavour, to devote ourselves more fully to Him who has led us about and instructed us, and who has an undoubted right to the possession, and guidance, and direction of all we have and are. But, I must conclude. This season of promise is very exhilarating and pleasing, and bears with it many sweet remembrances of past hours, when we have together explored the sunny banks, in search of the odorous violet, or lovely primrose. Be assured, my dear friends, of the tender affection of your,

M. Middleton.

To E. T.

London, *Fifth Month 23rd*, 1825.

My beloved E.

When thy last truly welcome and affectionate letter reached me, I did not intend to suffer a long time to pass, before I thanked thee for it; but having done so, I will not now burden thee with apologies, which, at best, are rather unfruitful things. In the interval of silence, my heart has often affectionately greeted thee, and desired thy encouragement, to press forward in that way, which leads to the kingdom of heavenly rest; and though it be a way of difficulty,—a way of trial,—a way of suffering, is it not the way that has been consecrated for us, by the great High Priest of our profession, who was Himself a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, and who, in suffering for us, has left us an example, that we should follow his steps? Many and great are his promises, to those who are willing to continue with Him in temptations, and to endure patiently those baptisms unto death, (the death of the natural will) which must be the portion of those who seek an admission, with Him, into glory. Oh then, my dear friend! may we be willing, in unquestioning faith and childlike simplicity, to follow Him whithersoever He goeth, and count it all joy, if we are found worthy to suffer for

the sake of our dear Redeemer. Truly, the present state is not our rest, but is replete with much that may bring to our remembrance the words of the Saviour, "In the world, ye shall have tribulation;" but how animating, how comforting, is the addition, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." And will He not still enable all those, who unreservedly trust in Him, to overcome it also? Will He not, in his love and his mercy, go before them, and make them more than conquerors, to the praise of his name? So that, amidst all the discouragements that may attend us, there is abundant cause to renew our confidence, and to cast all our care upon Him who careth for us, and who will feed his dependent and confiding little ones, with that food which He sees to be convenient for them; and if it be of his appointment, and received with thankful submission, it shall nourish up their souls unto eternal life. I did not think of writing this, my dear, when I took up the pen, but the love and sympathy, my heart feels for thee, induces a sisterly freedom, and leads me to commune by the way, with one, who is, I believe, sincerely seeking a city which hath foundations, and it seems with me, to bid thee good speed, though in the midst of abounding weakness and poverty myself, so that I am ready, at times, to compare myself to the heath in the desert, whilst many, around me, are tasting sweet refreshment from the eternal spring, which indeed, seems to be renewedly opened in this great assembly. . . . . .

Thy tenderly affectionate,

M. Middleton.

To E. S——h.

Box Hill, near Dorking, *Fifth Month*, 1825.

. . . . . Truly comforting and strengthening it is to us, to have had the opportunity of sitting a little by the bed of our very precious invalid, where there is indeed a tranquillizing feeling, that seems like a consoling, sustaining evidence of that presence, which is beyond every human aid, and which, we cannot doubt, will continue with her, until the conflicts of time are happily exchanged for the peace and joy of an eternal mansion. We must not, we cannot mourn, for her who is so blessed; but

must endeavour to raise our views and thoughts towards that world, where there is no more sorrow, and where there shall be no parting. Oh! that we may be seeking daily for preparation to enter into that holy, that perfect rest. . . . . .

M. M.

"SWEET IS THE BREATH OF OPENING MORN."

Sweet is the breath of opening morn,
And sweet the song of "early bird,"
When from each tree and blossom'd thorn,
The soul of melody is stirred.

And fair the unrivalled hues that spread,
Around the parting ray of even,
In light fantastic shapes, and shed
On things of earth, the tints of heaven.

But sweeter is the voice that speaks,
In comfort to the mourner's breast,
And lovelier far the beam that breaks,
Around his twilight hour of rest;

That points him to that region bright,
Unmarred by sin, undimmed by tears,
Where purest joy and cloudless light
Shall fill th' eternal round of years,
And angel harps be tuned to raise
The ceaseless song of holiest praise.

Sixth Month 13*th*, 1825.

To E. R.

Bradpole, *Eighth Month* 31*st*, 1825.

My dear E.,

Thy wonted kindness, which has been so sweetly shown of late, in interesting and affectionate communications, demands a much better return than my pen can make; but we have often desired to thank thee, through this medium, and to chat a little, since thy dear home companions left thee to a more solitary lot than usual. . . . . But I must go back to the very interesting account, so kindly sent us, of your northern tour amidst lakes and mountains,

and wood-haunts wild, where you feasted on nature's beauties, to an uncommon degree. Very kind it was, amidst so many excitements and exertions, to think of the distant sojourners in the low-lands, who are forbidden to climb such towering heights, and range through such romantic regions. Well, my dear, accept our hearty thanks for this participation in your pleasures, and do not think them less sincere, for being so long unexpressed. It is a comfort to feel, from time to time, as we pass through the chequered paths of life, that the tie of friendship that bound us early, continues to bind us without slackening ; and indeed, I trust it strengthens, as years roll on. May it be more and more the case, until we arrive at the end of this mortal pilgrimage ; a state replete with sorrows and with snares, but in which, through unmerited mercy, many comforts and enjoyments are permitted. Oh ! that we may, in all things, be endeavouring to look to the great Disposer, who wisely mingles the cup, and who, though it may, at times, consist with his wisdom, to pour in abundantly, what may seem bitter ingredients, can make it of healing efficacy to the truly subjected mind ; but indeed, my dear friend, so prone are we to shrink from every thing painful, that it is difficult to keep in this passive state,—a state, however, most desirable to press after, and one, we must believe, peculiarly acceptable in the divine sight. Alas ! how far is the poor unworthy writer, from an attainment, which nevertheless appears the very essence of religion ! When shall self be laid low, and the power of the Saviour be exalted, in a heart that seems at times, the prey of the enemy ! But enough of what cannot be cheering to thee, and is perhaps better locked up in secret. . . . . .

Farewell, very tenderly, and think often of

Thy nearly attached,

M. Middleton.

To E. T.

Southampton, *Second Month 12th*, 1826.

My dear Cousin,

It is a privilege to be permitted, some times, to salute our dear friends by the way, though we may have to commune principally of our sadness ; but whilst I write this, I am forcibly

struck with the conviction, that we are so encompassed with unmerited blessings and favours, so surrounded with proofs of that divine care and condescension, which is extended to the whole family of man, that surely, if our hearts were properly affected, we should find abundant cause, to rejoice in the goodness of Him, whose mercies are new every morning, and account all our trials and afflictions real favours, if they may but be made instrumental, to bring us nearer and nearer to the great and inexhaustible Source of perfection and love. But how far removed am I from a state of mind, which appears so desirable to be pressed after! but which can only be wrought by the reduction of all that opposes itself to the divine government. But, my dear E., amidst all our discouragements, from within or from without, may we not take comfort in the assurance, that "we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities," but who, having borne our nature, and been "tempted like as we are, yet without sin," is abundantly able and willing to succour all them that are tempted; and who, as we are willing to come to Him, in living faith, will assuredly make us "more than conquerors through Him that loved us," and hath purchased us with his most precious blood. Oh! that we may withhold nothing, He is pleased to call for, and then, I cannot doubt but He will be found strength in weakness, and a present help in the hour of trouble. I have suffered my pen to convey the feelings that have presented since I sat down, in the freedom of tender affection, greatly desiring, that thou, my dear cousin, mayst be favoured with abundant supplies of that living virtue, which can strengthen the soul for every good word and work, and sustain it under every trial, that in the ordering of infinite wisdom, may be permitted. And when thou art favoured to approach that sacred place, where prayer is wont to be made, remember one of the feeblest and most unworthy of the flock, one, who, in the pressure of multiplied infirmities, is often ready to exclaim,—Surely I shall one day fall by the hand of the enemy; and intercede, that when he cometh in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord may availingly lift up a standard against him. . . . . .

Thy affectionate and nearly attached,

Maria Middleton.

To E., S. and M. W

Southampton, *Second Month 21st*, 1826.

My beloved Cousins,

So nearly and tenderly, do our hearts sympathise with you in the present solemn circumstances, that the pen seems to refuse its office, and language fails to give expression to those feelings, which, as it were, drink up our spirits; and yet we cannot be easy, without at least, attempting to convey to yourselves, some proof of our affectionate fellow-feeling. To be so distant from you, as not to be able personally to render you any assistance, in a conflict like that you have lately been called to sustain, is an augmentation of the trial, but we cannot doubt your receiving from those on the spot, all that friendship can supply; and what is much more, the secret support of that all-sufficient Arm of power, which is wonderfully extended, for the stay of those, who feel it to be their only dependence. To you, my beloved cousins, what need we say? You know the springs of consolation,—you have not, now first, to seek that refuge which is the hiding place of the christian in the hour of adversity, but have proved it, in days past, to be an unfailing shelter, a covert from the storm, a rock against which, the swelling floods of sorrow, though they may be permitted to rise high, will not be suffered to prevail. I doubt not, my dear cousins, it is your earnest desire, to rest here, and to seek after a measure of that holy resignation, which breathes, in the deep prostration of the soul, the acceptable language, "Thy will be done." And when we turn to the consideration of the joy unspeakable and full of glory, into which those are entered, who, through a course of years, have been endeavouring to fight the good fight of faith, how abundant is the consolation, and cause even of rejoicing on their account, that they have been permitted to enter the harbour of undisturbed rest! Well, my dear cousins, I cannot add much; but I trust this will find you surrounded by those, who are peculiarly qualified to render you all that succour, that can be received through the medium of tenderly interested relatives. . . . . Accept all that can be conveyed, of tenderest affection and sympathy, from your,

M. Middleton.

CHAPTER IV.

1826. Journey on the Continent—Rotterdam—Amsterdam—Zeist—Deventer—Bentheim—Ippenbühren—Osnabrück—Herford—Pyrmont—Minden—Rehme—Eidinghausen—Hille—Hanover—Celle—Hamburgh—Passage to England—Landing at Southwold—Journey home.

The first journey taken by Maria Middleton, in the service of the gospel, was in the year 1826, when her beloved sister and herself united with their valued relative, Ann Alexander, of York, in a visit to the Friends of Pyrmont and Minden, and in other religious service in Holland and Germany. With this little band, was associated Cornelius Hanbury, of London, their kind and efficient care-taker, as well as true helper and fellow-labourer in the work in which they were engaged. Her feelings in the prospect of this journey are described in the following letter.

To E. S——h.

Hitchin, *Fourth Month 3rd*, 1826.

. . . . . We hope to meet at some future time, if that be permitted by Him, who ordereth all things wisely, and to whose guidance, we, sincerely, though feebly, and in the midst of abounding infirmities, desire to commit our all. Oh! my dear friend, when flesh and spirit are ready to fail, may we be able to say, "God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever," and then, it is of little consequence, what are the trials, or what the changes, we may be permitted to experience here, compared with the soul-sustaining conviction, that we are under the merciful protection of infinite power, directed by infinite love, and that "all the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies." I write not, my dear friend, as having attained this happy experience, but as

desiring to press after it; for indeed, darkness and destitution seem, at times, to cover us as a garment, but it is an unspeakable favour, and one, we ought gratefully to commemorate, that we have been preserved in a degree of quiet dependence on that Arm which can do all things, on Him whose right it is, to work by the feeblest of instruments, whensoever it pleaseth Him. To Him, be all praise, from his unworthy creatures! . . . . . .

M. M.

Fourth Month 22*nd*, *Seventh-day.* Early in the morning, we were summoned from our beds; breakfasted and went on board the *King of the Netherlands*, a steam vessel lying off the Custom-house, about eight o'clock. At Woolwich, the parting between W. and A. A. took place; but not without a degree of that sustaining quiet, which stays the mind on what is unchangeable, and enables it to look beyond the feeling of the present, to the source and centre of true union. Many friends accompanied us to Blackwall; W. M., R. F., and M. B. came as far as Gravesend, where a boat received them, and left us reduced to our own little company, and that of our fellow-passengers, a small number of respectable looking people. We found among them, two who spoke German; so the little knowledge we had acquired of that language, was soon brought into exercise. We remained on deck till about eight, when we retired to our berths, and were favoured to lie down, with a sweet feeling of peaceful quiet, committing ourselves, I trust, with a degree of humble confidence, to the care of the unslumbering Shepherd, the ever watchful Preserver of his people, and were refreshed by some comfortable sleep. The sea was very smooth, and the crew quiet and orderly.

23*rd*, *First-day.* Morning rainy: as we could not be on deck, did not rise early. The Dutch coast was announced about half-past five; a low, flat, uninteresting line of land; occasionally relieved by villages and rows of trees. Soon after eleven, a custom-house officer came on board; and about one, we landed on the pier at Rotterdam; a neat, handsome city. One of our seamen conducted us to the hotel, our friends in London had recommended, "The Groot Skippers," where we have good accommodations.

24*th, Second-day.* After the refreshment of a night's rest, we sat down to breakfast, and read the forty-sixth and forty-seventh psalms, to our comfort: afterwards wrote letters, whilst C. H. went out to call on some persons, to whom he had introductions. He met with a young man from Pyritz, in Pomerania, a missionary of the Netherlands Society, whom he had known in London, and whose acquaintance was very useful to us. He introduced us to the Baroness Van Nyvelt, on whom we made a call. She lives in a handsome house, but appeared to be a truly simple, humble-minded believer. After dinner, we called on the widow Vandeluher, a pious woman, who had been visited by several other Friends; took tea with C. Ledaboer, his wife and daughter. Something was expressed to them before we parted, and supplication was offered on behalf of the parents and children. Went afterwards to see C. Gutzlaff and his brethren; five young Germans, destined to go out, as missionaries, to the Indian Archipelago. With them, we found a religious merchant from Elberfeld, who conversed with us respecting the ordinance of baptism and the supper; he appeared to be a spiritually-minded man. After some time, a precious covering of good was permitted, wherein we were enabled to salute each other as fellow-believers of the same gospel; and, on the bended knee, to desire their and our own preservation in the Lord. It is animating to see so many, in early life, devoted to the great cause; and to observe the solidity and simplicity of their deportment.

25*th, Third-day.* This morning, the waiter announced the arrival of the carriage, with the Friend who drives it, Ernst Peytsmeyer. He appears a simple, honest-hearted man; speaks only German, but we can make each other understand very well. C. Gutzlaff and another missionary called on us, to take a walk in the environs of Rotterdam, which are very beautiful; walks, planted with trees, running along the banks of the Maese. We had much interesting conversation, returned to our inn to dinner, and were joined afterwards by C. L., who conducted us to the Orphan House, an institution capable of receiving five hundred children, but at present, containing only two hundred and thirty. They stay till twenty-one or twenty-two years of age, when they are placed in service. This institution

is supported by the Calvinistic church of Holland. We also saw a school, maintained by the government, where a large number of children are instructed. They were reading scripture lessons in Dutch, and at the conclusion, sang a hymn; it was a very interesting sight. Our friend L. gave them a short, simple exhortation, before we came away. In the evening, we took tea with the widow V., her friend, and two young men, a nephew and grandson. The former, from Denmark, an agreeable young man, who could not speak English, but French and German. The latter, educated amongst the Moravians in Germany. We had a pleasant visit to this pious woman, to whom we felt much united.

26*th*, *Fourth-day*. C. Gutzlaff kindly assisted to prepare notices for the little "re-union," proposed to be held with a small number of pious persons. I had an agreeable conversation afterwards, with our friend V. and her nephew, Henry von Allehn, on whom I called, to let them know of the meeting. C. H. conducted us, this morning, to call on — Mackei, the postmaster-general of the city, and a member of council, an influential man, and very actively engaged in the benevolent institutions. He speaks English well, and has a very pleasing wife. We took coffee with them, and were truly refreshed in spirit, whilst permitted, as we humbly trust, to partake of a measure of that precious fellowship which is, at times, enjoyed by those who love the Lord, in sincerity. This feeling of unity was expressed, and prayer offered on their behalf, to that gracious Lord, who is thus pleased to preserve alive a true church, made up of sincere believers, in various nations and denominations. The conversation of M. was very striking. He said, he daily felt more and more the importance of learning the first lessons; of being willing to do the duties of each day, as they arise, without wishing to be any thing else, than what is designed by our Heavenly Father. His wife and he were united in the tenderest ties, but often conversed on the period of their separation; he hoped, if he should be first taken, she would not be too much afflicted, as he would be only one station before her. After dinner, we called on an elderly woman, of the name of Bischon, and found it truly animating, to observe her lively faith and hope, and the cheerfulness of her mind. She is a woman of property, and has known much of the temptations of the world;

but told us, she was drawn, in early life, by the power of divine grace, to renounce all ; and now, in the evening of her day, had cause to commemorate the goodness of God, who had been with her, and who had reduced the opposition of a mind naturally inclined to reasoning and incredulity.

After leaving her, we soon went to the chamber over the Exchange, where the Mission Society hold their meetings. Here, we were joined by more than twenty persons, mostly of the higher class. It was a truly comfortable opportunity, wherein the power of divine love was sweetly felt, and ability graciously afforded, to offer the language of thanksgiving, and to petition the divine mercy on behalf of those present. Afterwards, the word of consolation and exhortation was offered by each of our little band. Our friend L. interpreted, and when our meeting concluded, under the precious feeling of unity in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in the hope of salvation through Him, he requested to read a part of the third chapter of Ephesians, from the fourteenth verse to the end. We took leave of each other, with a lively feeling of christian regard. A young French minister, pastor of the Lutheran Church in Amsterdam, who was at the meeting, came to tea with us, as did Conrad Ferlenden, (one of the missionaries) and H. von Allehn. We parted with them, in a feeling which is beyond words ; commending each other to the divine care and keeping. C. F. is a remarkable man, full of humility, simplicity and love. He gave us an instructive account of the manner in which his mind had been prepared, and his way opened, for engaging in the arduous services of a missionary. His parents, especially his mother, were strongly opposed to his leaving them, but by patiently waiting, and seeking to commit the matter into the Lord's hand, he had, at length, the satisfaction of finding all these obstacles removed, and expected ere long, to proceed to some one of the islands of the Indian Archipelago. He appeared to us remarkably devoted to the work, to which he believed himself called, and to be seeking, very singly, to follow the guidance of the good Shepherd.* [This

* The following note is found among M. F.'s memoranda, under date 1841: —Although we met with several persons at Rotterdam, to whom we felt united, as believing them to be humble followers of the Lord Jesus, we were very sensible of a load of secret exercise, on account of the bulk of the people in this city, and no way seemed to open for throwing this off ;

young man died before he had long occupied the station assigned him. ED.]

27*th, Fifth-day.* Rose early, and took leave of our kind friend C. Gutzlaff and some others, who came to see us off. C. G. expressed, in a very lively manner, his friendly regard, and desire for our preservation every way. Our worthy driver, Ernst, then proceeded with us to Gouda, a distance of about twelve English miles. There, we alighted at a small inn, where we took coffee and cold meat; every thing in the true Dutch style. We were soon placed on board the treckschute, in which we had a small apartment to ourselves. We glided gently along the river, passing through several neat villages, and arrived at Amsterdam, soon after six o'clock. A long walk through many busy streets, where we attracted a sort of curiosity which did not give us the most pleasing impression of the manners of the citizens, brought us to our inn, the Grand Doelin, on the Cingel. John Mollet called in the evening, and gave us a cordial welcome to Amsterdam. In the course of this day's journey, we had cause to commemorate, with thankful hearts, the preserving care of an ever watchful Providence. On our way from Rotterdam to Gouda, one of our horses started aside, in passing a carriage, and the road being an elevated causeway between two canals, we were in great danger of being precipitated to the bottom. "In the midst of life, we are in death;" we may well exclaim, so small is the space that divides us from eternity. Oh! that we may seek to live more and more in Him, who is the life of his dependent, faithful children; that so we may be prepared, whenever the closing scene shall arrive, to meet Him with joy, through the efficacy of faith

meetings being out of the question, except in the private manner above alluded to. Amongst some of the serious people with whom we had intercourse, there was to be observed, the injurious effects of their high and over-strained views. I fear, of some it might be said, that they, "going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God," though they could speak much of the plan of salvation, and are Calvinists of the most rigid school. We generally produced our certificates, which were read with interest, and this often led to conversation on the principles and practices of our Society. To be willing to go in simplicity where we found an opening to receive us, and endeavour after a willingness to appear as fools among them, answering, as well as we were able, the many questions put to us, or expressing any little matter that might be given us to communicate, seemed much the line of our service, if we had any, in Holland.

in that most precious blood, which was shed for us upon the cross.

29*th*, *Seventh-day.* Called on the family of Müller, a bookseller; he was himself from home, but his wife and sister received us with affectionate kindness, and conversed much in German. They had with them, a very lively, pleasing young woman, from Crevelt, in Germany, the daughter of a Mennonist preacher; she had attended a meeting appointed by M. Savory there, and was much delighted to see some Friends. We were met here, by a missionary of the name of Gericke, an agreeable man, who had been very useful to Thomas Shillitoe, at Hamburgh, and had frequently acted as his interpreter; he was very friendly. After a short time of quiet together, they were recommended to a watchful dependence on God, and we left them comforted in the belief, that they are of those who seek "a better country, that is, an heavenly."

30*th*, *First-day.* John Mollet conducted us to the house belonging to Friends, on the Keyzers-Gragt. It is a comfortable meeting-house, in good repair, and a very respectable looking company were assembled in it, but it proved a trying, painful morning; the minds of the people, evidently greatly unsettled, and little prepared to comprehend the nature of true spiritual worship. Each of our little band was engaged, to draw their attention to a quiet seeking after divine teaching, and at the end, a more settled feeling prevailed. Another meeting was appointed for the evening, which was smaller, but much more quiet, and the stream of gospel ministry flowed freely through dear A. A.; C. H. was also engaged in the ministry, and my sister in supplication. Many spoke kindly to us at parting, and some invited us to their houses. J. M. told us, some of the first merchants in Amsterdam were at the meeting.

Fifth Month 1*st*, *Second-day.* A young man of the name of Fleming, from England, called on us. He was at the meeting last evening, having accidentally heard of it, and appeared gratified with the opportunity. He is studying the art of painting in this city, and has been five years at Leyden. Told us, he had been at a Friend's school in England, which had been of great importance to him, in the effect it had produced on his views of the military profession; was designed for the service of the

East India Company, but became so dissatisfied with it, that he prevailed on his parents, to allow him to seek some other occupation. He appeared an agreeable, well disposed young man; accompanied us to the Blind School, a most interesting establishment, where the children are taught writing, reading, arithmetic and geography, by means of raised types, which they discern by the touch. They are also instructed in various mechanic arts. We were greatly pleased with our visit, and with the principal master of the school. Saw, afterwards, an excellent public institution (the House of correction and Workhouse,) where all destitute, unemployed persons can procure shelter and work. The women were principally engaged in spinning; the men in various kinds of occupation, as tailors, carpet-weavers, &c.; they have one-third of their earnings. Nine hundred persons were last winter, in the institution, and it is capable of receiving nearly two thousand. Amsterdam is a handsome city; we were particularly struck with the magnificent entrances to many of the houses and the public buildings, and with the staircases, wholly of marble. The English Consul called on us; was exceedingly kind, and expressed his regret at not being able to attend the meeting yesterday.

2*nd*, *Third-day*. Rose, with a feeling of interest for the people of the inn where we lodged, and having mentioned it to my companions, we requested J. Mollet to inquire, whether the servants could be set at liberty to attend our reading before breakfast. The mistress and her son came very willingly, and, I think, five servants. Our young friend, Fleming, was also present, and, I trust, we had cause to acknowledge the renewed extension of divine help. J. M. interpreted what was communicated, and afterwards took leave of us, with much feeling. We felt for this worthy man, in his solitary situation, being the only individual professing with Friends in the city. W. F. stayed with us till we set off, between ten and eleven, for Utrecht. The day was fine, and we travelled agreeably, along a very good road, planted with trees and ornamented with handsome villas; the grounds beautifully shaded with trees, though laid out in a rather stiff taste, and adorned with fancy summer-houses, chiefly in the oriental style. We reached the ancient, fortified city of Utrecht, about five; walked out, to look at the fine cathedral and the tower, and then proceeded five miles further, to the pleasant, retired village of

Zeist, where the Moravians have a large establishment. The inn, where we are accommodated, is in a style of neat simplicity, quite characteristic of the community ; it is called " Die Brüder Gemeine."

3*rd*, *Fourth-day*. Walked out altogether, to call on the pastor of the Moravian community, who received us with affectionate kindness. One of his daughters, who has been in England, and speaks our language well, accompanied her father in showing us over a part of the buildings. In the school, we saw a great number of fine girls, amongst them, some whose parents were labouring as missionaries in distant lands. It was an interesting morning ; we walked round the burial place, where the nightingale was singing melodiously, and visited the chapel and the shops of the brethren, where a variety of articles are sold ; purchased some trifles, as remembrances, and then returned to the house of the pastor Früauf. His wife is very infirm, from rheumatism : we conversed a little with her in German, and after partaking of some refreshment, a feeling of heavenly good was mercifully permitted ; when my companions were strengthened to address these dear fellow-believers, and the language of supplication was offered. At this second call, a person was present, who had spent much of his life in the army ;—was amongst the Dutch troops, who had been nourished in England, during the late war. He spoke, with warm, and evidently heartfelt, gratitude, of the generous treatment, they had experienced from our country ; and said, it gave him peculiar pleasure, to meet with any persons belonging to a nation he so highly esteemed, and for which he should ever pray. This introduced a conversation, on the subject of war, in which the views of our Society were somewhat explained. After dinner, we visited pastor Passavant, who has the care of the brethren's department. He appeared to be a spiritually minded man, though of a very lively disposition ; was very kind to us, and gave us recommendations to some of his friends in Switzerland. Before we parted, the salutation of gospel fellowship, was addressed to him. The daughter of pastor Früauf, whom we saw in the morning, took tea with us, and we found her a sweet, interesting young woman ; at parting, she said it was a comfort to feel united in the Lord.

4*th*, *Fifth-day*. Before we set off, this morning, pastor Früauf

ealled, to bring a little book for my sister and self; a parting present from his daughter, with a kind note from her. He also presented a book to C. H., as a memento of the time, we had spent at Zeist; said they should long remember it,—we had felt so mueh together,—eould not express himself easily in English, but said, he felt much more than he eould say. On its being remarked, that it was animating to those in younger life, to observe the support extended to such as had been long endeavouring to follow the Saviour, he told us, that his parents had so earefully instilled into his mind, the principles of religion, that he eould not remember the time, when he did not fear and believe in the Lord,—had not known what it was to wander very far from Him, and had been favoured with great tenderness of spirit in early life,—that he desired still the same feelings, but remarked, that although there was now less of that lively sensibility which had marked his earlier days, he trusted his love of heavenly things was more steady and constant: we parted in mueh ehristian sympathy, and I trust, some union of heart in the faith and hope of the gospel.

We left Zeist, about nine o'cloek, and travelled, through a pleasant, though flat country, to Amersfoort, a neat little Duteh town, and then proceeded towards Deventer; found the travelling tedious, and the more so, from our not being able to aseertain distanees, with any preeision. Our route lay through a solitary forest, and as evening approaehed, we began to fear, we should not reach our destination before dark; especially as, from the various aceounts of people on the road, we apprehended it would prove farther than we had supposed. The evening was fine and serene,—the eountry rather more peopled. At length, a long bridge over a fine river, roused us from the stillness, evening naturally induces, and an old stone gateway ushered us into Deventer, an ancient and strongly fortified town.

5th, Sixth-day. Walked a little to see the town, and to look at the bridge we had passed the evening before. We found it construeted on piles of wood, plaeed in a row of boats. About eight, set off for Delden. On the way, met many eountry people, going to market at Deventer, in the various costumes of the neighbourhood. The road, as we drew near the confines of Germany, became gradually more sandy, and very fatiguing for

the horses; but we reached Delden, the last town in Holland, about the middle of the day; took some refreshment there, and set out for Bentheim. The way, through a deep sand, and the country, one extended, dreary plain, continuing, with little relief of trees or habitations, till we approached Bentheim. The road became extremely rough and stony, as we slowly ascended the precipitous rock, on which the town is built, surmounted by an ancient fortress, the castle or palace, of the Prince of Bentheim. At a rustic German inn, close to the castle, we took up our lodging for the night; its aspect was very wild and somewhat forlorn, but the people very civil. We were shown into a large hall, whose ancient furniture and decorations reminded us of the days of chivalry. Our hostess made us a wood fire, on the hearth, at which we aired our bedding; afterwards walked into the apartment, occupied by the family, to see the arrangements of a German village dwelling. This was a very large room, with a pair of ample doors, and an earthen floor; at one end, was a fire on the hearth, with a pan of potatoes boiling for supper; before it, stood a massy table, where the drivers and several men of the family were enjoying their evening repast, whilst a tall greyhound was occasionally helping himself from one of the plates. In the middle of the room, stood our carriage, drawn in for the night, and over it, a trap door, conducting by a ladder, I believe, to the sleeping rooms of the men. Along the side, were arranged, in several stalls, a numerous family of horses, cows, &c., quietly taking their evening meal.

6*th*, *Seventh-day*. The morning very fine; walked round the castle, whilst the horses were preparing, and set off about seven; our route over a most uninteresting tract of country to Rheine, a small Prussian town; the approach to it marked by numerous crucifixes, and other indications of a Roman Catholic neighbourhood. The inn, where we stayed a short time to refresh ourselves, a most comfortless, dirty place. They had spread a white counterpane for the table cloth, and the floor of the room looked as if it had not known a sweeping, for a very long period. As we passed out of the town, we saw many more crucifixes, and felt our spirits quite depressed with the moral darkness that was perceptible, and with the want of civilisation that was very apparent, and marked the oppressive influence of superstition and ignorance.

The road from this place so heavy, we were still obliged to have four horses, and could only go, in general, a foot's pace: the horses loosely hung together with ropes; fine, powerful animals, but not much indebted to the care of their grooms;—a Prussian postilion, with a blue jacket and orange trimming, a bugle slung over the left shoulder, which he blew, when we approached a village, and at one point of the road, where there is an echo, he stopt and blew a long blast, the effect of which was very fine. About five in the evening, we reached Ippenbühren, where we were glad to rest for the night.

7th, First-day. Set out for Osnabrück, through a very pleasing country, gradually assuming a more English appearance, as we entered the dominions of our own sovereign. The road something better, but very rough and stony, and we found it a long stage, of twenty-four English miles. Came into Osnabrück, between one and two; shops all open. Spent a solitary afternoon at the inn; all very low; feared I had done wrong in not mentioning to my companions, before we left Ippenbühren, the reluctance I felt to travel on First-day morning. We might, perhaps, have sat down at our inn there, and, at least, been refreshed ourselves, if any of the people had not joined us.* From various causes, closely tried at Osnabrück, perhaps in some degree introduced into a feeling of the spirit of the place. It is an ancient city, containing eleven thousand inhabitants, Protestant and Catholic. A large place of worship, once belonging to the latter, but now Lutheran, was opposite our inn. The doors being open, we looked in; it retains the crucifixes and other ornaments of the Romish worship; the altar screen, gilded, and

* Ippenbühren is one of the places, I think, where we missed of comfort, for want of faithfulness and simplicity. Some of our party being desirous to spend the First-day at Osnabrück, we had hoped to reach that city on Seventh-day evening, but found we could not get further than Ippenbühren; myself so very poorly, that to stop anywhere was a relief. Still, the anxiety to reach Osnabrück, induced a desire, we should, if possible, go thither early on First-day morning. I was fearful of urging my sentiments too strongly, because my indisposition naturally disinclined me to make any effort, and I would not willingly be a hindrance to the service of others. The distance to Osnabrück proved so much greater than we were given to expect, that we did not arrive till noon. Nothing came on the First-day, to comfort us at this place, and we heard afterwards, there was a company of religious people, at or near Ippenbühren, who had withdrawn from the various modes of worship they were acquainted with, and to whom, it is likely, we might have gained access, if we had remained patiently there.

composed of very elaborate carved work, describing the various scenes of our Saviour's sufferings. The manner in which the First-day is spent in these countries, is very depressing. On our arrival at Osnabrück, the waiter, who brought in our dinner, handed us the play-bill for the evening, as a thing of course, and we had reason to fear, that a person, to whom some one had given us a recommendation as a *serious* man, was at the theatre, when C. H. called in the evening.

8th, Second-day. Left Osnabrück, and had a fine ride, through a pleasing country, to Mille, and from thence to Herford, through tremendous roads, the ruts so fearfully deep and shaking, we were often obliged to walk; but at length arrived safely, about half-past eight, fifteen miles in six hours. On the way, saw a group of labouring men, resting by the road-side; gave them German tracts, which they joyfully received. We distributed a great many, through the journey, and they were seized with avidity, like the thirsty ground drinking in the welcome shower.

WRITTEN IN THE CARRIAGE, BETWEEN MILLE AND HERFORD.

Man has nought but what is given,
By the bounteous Lord above;
Nought but what he owes to heaven,
Source of wisdom, power and love.

Sharers in one common nature,
Erring wanderers day by day;
Shall a guilty, fallen creature,
Harshly judge its kindred clay?

Be it, Lord, by Thee forbidden;
Rather lead our souls to trace
All the wonders that are hidden,
In thy covenant of grace.

Love, surpassing all expression,
Still in every age the same;
Mercy, covering all transgression
In a dying Saviour's name.

9th, Third day. Walked before breakfast, to call on H. E., a poor friend belonging to the Two-months' Meeting of Pyrmont and Minden, who has a wife and four children. The man and his wife, both in delicate health, indeed the former seriously

affected with a complaint on the lungs. An aged father of the wife was present, and a comfortable feeling prevailed in sitting a little with them. We were not able to make them understand much, as they could only speak German ; but my dear companions addressed a few words to them in that language, and ability was mercifully afforded, to commend them to the keeping of the Almighty Father, who seeth the solitary, and whose "tender mercies are over all his works." After leaving them, we went to see the house, formerly the residence of the Princess Elizabeth of the Rhine, now a cotton-factory. The inhabitant of the centre apartments, still a good dwelling, was very obliging, and showed us the garden, which is very large, and laid out in antique style. We walked to a sort of arbour, formed by the twining branches of aged trees, under whose shade, we fancied William Penn might have spent some of the pleasant hours, he has recorded in his account of that pious lady. Set off about nine for Lemgo, where we stayed an hour to refresh ourselves ; walked out to survey this very ancient and remarkable looking, little town, full of the most singular specimens of ancient architecture. The villages we have seen to-day, are wretched beyond all description, and their inhabitants miserably dirty, but the country beautiful, fruitful and well cultivated. Our ride from Lemgo to Pyrmont has been truly delightful, the horizon skirted with hills of varying outline, whilst the nearer undulations of hill and vale, were fringed with rich woods, just appearing in the most vivid green of spring. The approach to Pyrmont is peculiarly beautiful. The town situated in a complete grove of trees, in a sort of basin naturally formed by the fine and abruptly broken hills, covered with rich woods, whilst the glow of the declining sun, casting their shadows over each other, heightened the effect. We arrived, about half-past eight, at H. Seebohm's, a widow, with a daughter and niece residing with her. We have neat, comfortable apartments, and feel it a welcome rest, after seven days' close travelling. Had a precious time together, after our evening reading, when the voice of thanksgiving and prayer was offered, and we retired under feelings of thankfulness to our great Preserver, who has brought us safely through this long journey.*

* [The following note was inserted in M. F.'s journal at a subsequent date.]—As there is frequent mention of scenery and other objects, in these

10*th*, *Fourth-day.* Attended the little meeting: there were not, I think, twenty Friends present; most of them poor, as to this world. It was a low time, but towards the conclusion, a little renewed ability was afforded us, to draw their attention to the grace that bringeth salvation. Walked part of the way to Friedensthal, through a beautiful forest scene. We had the mortification to find that Louis Seebohm was gone to Amsterdam to meet us. On C. H.'s return from Friedensthal, he brought with him Ernst, our driver, whose countenance was brightened with joy, at having received permission, from the King of Prussia, to resume the little property he had possessed, and of which he had been deprived, in consequence of his refusal to bear arms. In the evening, read together a part of S. Grubb's journal.

11*th*, *Fifth-day.* Devoted this day, almost wholly, to the interesting occupation of writing letters for England. Had the pleasure of welcoming Louis Seebohm from his long journey.

12*th*, *Sixth-day.* Studied our German before breakfast; afterwards walked to the Spa, and up one of the hills in the neighbourhood, to breath the fine, pure air, and look on the picturesque scenery; our time of rest being somewhat prolonged, it being thought best not to enter on the family visits, till after First-day. This interval is a time, in which we are often greatly tried, and faith seems reduced very low. Oh! that the grain of faith may be constantly cherished, be it ever so small, and then, it will be found effectual, in the appointed time, to the removing of mountains. In the afternoon, walked to the Dunst-höhle, a natural phenomenon in the neighbourhood. We approached the cavern by a winding walk, ornamented with trees and flowering shrubs; seats being placed here and there amongst them. The cavern is on the side of the hill, from thirty to forty feet below the surface of the earth; scooped into the form of a basin, and entered by a flight of stone steps. At the bottom, is a strata of carbonic acid gas, naturally evolved from the earth, and this is, perhaps, the only place where this is known, except the Grotto del Cane, near Naples.

memorandums, it may be proper to remark, that we never diverged from our route, to visit any object of curiosity, or stayed in a place for this purpose, though we might sometimes fill up time, in this way, which seemed to be unemployed, as to the more important business of our journey.

The flame of a large bundle of lighted straw, was extinguished, as soon as it was brought within two feet of the ground, and at the mouth of the cave, dead birds were lying, which had flown within the influence of the vapour. Sometimes it is as high as eight feet above the surface. On our return, tasted one of the mineral springs at its source; found it strongly impregnated with carbonic acid.

13*th*, *Seventh-day.* Rose, under feelings of much depression, but I trust, with some desire to be found in the way of duty; spent the morning within doors; in the afternoon, walked to Friedensthal, and made a pleasant call at L. S.'s.

14*th*, *First-day.* Went to meeting, with a small company of simple-hearted Friends, in low circumstances. Many persons, not of our Society, came in, and were rather unsettled during the time of silence. My three companions were engaged to proclaim the gospel message amongst them, and there was great sensibility apparent in some. As to myself, dryness and destitution were my portion. Oh! for a quiet waiting and patient dependence on the one Source of help, on Him "that hath the key of David," who "openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth." After dinner, we went to Friedensthal, and attended the reading meeting at John Seebohm's. Most of the Friends were assembled. J. S. read a part of the abridged "Life of George Fox," and the fiftieth, fifty-first, and fifty-second chapters of Isaiah, in German and English; afterwards our certificates were read. Had a pleasant walk home in the evening.

15*th*, *Second-day.* We were joined by Louis Seebohm, who accompanied us in the visits to the families, as interpreter; for this office he is peculiarly qualified. My dear companions were each enabled to prove their love to the blessed cause, and to labour in word and doctrine; but as to me, it was a day of darkness and gloominess, wherein the spring of consolation and refreshment seemed to be wholly closed up; and I accompanied them, from sitting to sitting, in silence and in a state of mental depression, that led me to inquire, whether any great mis-stepping could be the cause; but was somewhat comforted in remembering the words of our blessed Lord to Peter, on that memorable occasion, when he washed the feet of the disciples, "What I do, thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter."

16*th*, *Third-day.* Endeavoured to struggle against the discovery of my depression, and to assume some appearance of cheerfulness. Walked to Löwenhausen ; here we sat down with an aged friend, Frederic Persche, and his wife ; the latter, the person mentioned by Sarah Grubb, as having walked fifteen miles, from Buer to Osnabrück, to meet herself and friends, in her second journey on the continent. My dear companions were enlarged in gospel communication. In the latter part of the day, a little sense of good was mercifully afforded to my tossed mind, wherein a degree of capacity was found, to acknowledge the faithfulness of Jehovah.

17*th*, *Fourth-day.* We assembled with the little company, and a precious feeling of the extension of divine love and goodness, was permitted to cover us, almost from the first sitting down. After meeting, finished visiting the families.

19*th*, *Sixth-day.* Rose early, and prepared to set out for Minden ; took leave of our friends in much love. We had a beautiful ride, through a picturesque country, to Hameln, a considerable town on the fine river Weser. As we approached it, we passed the side of the fort or citadel, on the summit of a lofty and precipitous hill, commanding the river and town. It was stormed by the French troops in 1808, and, after a dreadful carnage, this strong fortress was carried, and the English forces compelled to retire. Alas, poor Germany! how has the desolating hand of cruel war, laid waste thy fields and drained thy cities, carrying innumerable moral evils through thy land! The table d'hote was spread, but as it was thought necessary for us to pursue our journey without loss of time, we concluded it best, not to stay that long meal. The company, however, had begun to assemble before we left the inn, and A. A. was not easy without going in, to distribute a few tracts and books amongst the party, who were chiefly military men. After this, we set out again, our road lying through a highly cultivated country, beautified by the windings of the Weser, and clothed with luxuriant woods, over which, the distant mountains, in bold, blue outline, marked the horizon ; the nearer hills intersecting each other in the most pleasing variety of forms, with little villages rising in the valleys and among the trees. At the small town of Bückeburg, we

alighted, and whilst the horses were changing, walked to look at the castle or palace belonging to the Prince of Bückeburg. It is an ancient building, with beautiful grounds attached to it, where modern art and taste have been employed, to heighten the effect of nature's beauties. The entrance to the outer court, was by a strong, stone gateway, with a fine Saxon arch. At Bückeburg, lives one Friend belonging to the meeting at Minden, who came out to speak to us. When we got out of this place, the road became very good, and was planted nearly all the way to Minden, with poplar or apple trees ; in one part, it was skirted on each side, for some distance, by a complete grove of acacias. The country on the right now became more level, but the same fine, bold hills continued to bound our view to the left, until we reached Minden, a garrison town, very strongly fortified. We entered it, over a heavy draw-bridge, and through a stone gateway, protected by powerful batteries. The town has a comfortless, military appearance, and the inn we lodge at, (the Wilhelm von Preussen) is the most uncomfortable we have yet seen, but being weary, we gladly retired to rest.

WRITTEN ON THE ROAD FROM PYRMONT TO MINDEN, WHEN UNDER FEELINGS OF TRIAL.

Dearest Lord, to thee we fly,
Hear, oh ! hear our suppliant cry :
From thy high and holy place,
From thy treasury of grace,
Grant supplies of faith and power
Proportioned to each trying hour.
Bowed before thy mercy-seat,
We cast our sorrows at thy feet :
Oh ! teach us all things to resign,
Content to have no will but thine ;
Direct our hearts, in patience still
To do or suffer all that will ;
In earth beneath, and heaven above,
That will is mercy, truth and love ;
In clouds or sunshine, day or night,
We feel that all Thou dost is right,
And angel harps are tuned to praise
Thy faithfulness in all thy ways.

20*th*, *Seventh-day.* Walked out with L. S., and called on a man and his wife, acquaintances of his. The man was formerly a member of our Society, and had lived in London. They were very kind, and we took some refreshment with them: afterwards, it seemed best to express a few words, encouraging them to a faithful employment of whatever talents might be committed to their trust. Walked round the cathedral, an ancient structure belonging to the Roman Catholics; on looking in, observed it splendidly decorated with pictures, crucifixes, &c., a silver lamp burning before the altar, and upon it were placed candlesticks of massy silver. Whilst we surveyed these ornaments of a temple, professedly christian, we could not forbear contrasting it, with the simplicity and lowly appearance of the great Founder of our holy religion, whose object it was, to draw the attention of men from the ceremonial observances of a more outward dispensation, and to fix it on the great object of true worship. "God is a spirit, and they that worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth." Far be it from me to suppose, there are not spiritual worshippers under every modification of christian profession; but the externals of the Roman Catholic service, whilst they appeal powerfully to the senses, are wonderfully calculated to draw the mind from that inward work of religion, which must be wrought in the soul that is made acceptable to God, through the merits and mediation of our adorable Redeemer.

21*st*, *First-day.* After breakfast, L. S. conducted us to the meeting, held in a large commodious room, at F. Schmidt's. There, we found a considerable number of the inhabitants, who were probably attracted by the appearance of strangers, to join the simple-hearted company of Friends who regularly assemble. Amongst them, were many genteel-looking people, and several military officers of distinction, wearing the Prussian uniform, and decorated with orders of military honour. They behaved with remarkable solidity, and there was a very precious feeling in the silent part of the meeting, as well as whilst ability was renewedly afforded, to preach to them the everlasting gospel of God our Saviour. The meeting was rather long, and at twelve, the military were obliged to retire, it being the hour of public duty; but they withdrew in a very proper manner, and afterwards noticed

our little company very respectfully in the town. In the afternoon, attended the reading meeting held in the same room; most of the Friends present. Our certificates were then read, and notice given to the Friends of Eidinghausen and Hille, that we were to visit them in their families, this week; several of them had come over to attend the meeting at Minden, to-day. After tea, we visited C. P. and wife; he is a brother of Ernst, and one of the three, who, five or six years ago, suffered on account of their conscientious refusal to bear arms, as a part of the militia of the country. In the Prussian dominions, every man above the age of twenty, is by law, a soldier; but these young men felt they could not comply with the requisition. Christian, the one we have seen this evening, was confined in prison, and received so many lashes, that the surgeon gave him up for dead. Charles, a younger brother, was imprisoned, and Ernst (who has been our driver) was deprived of all civil rights, and the little inheritance that was to descend to him from his mother. The government, finding all its efforts ineffectual, they were permitted to regain their personal liberty; but it was not till within the last few weeks, that Ernst has received permission to repossess his small property, by the king's especial command. They are in low circumstances, but appear to have a measure of that faith which makes truly rich, and gives victory over the world.

I will here notice an anecdote, related to us by Louis Seebohm, in the course of a conversation respecting these young men. Twenty years ago, he waited on the present King of Prussia, at Petershagen, where he was then reviewing the troops, to present a petition from Friends at Minden, praying for liberty of conscience, as they were subject to many difficulties in the exercise of their worship, &c. The king received it graciously, and commanded one of his officers present, to inform the friends, that liberty of conscience was a holy thing with him. During T. Shillitoe's visit to Germany, in 1824, L. S. accompanied him to Berlin, where he assisted him as interpreter. The former had a very satisfactory interview with the prince, and afterwards, by his introduction, with the king. T. Shillitoe expressed what he felt to be required, which the king and his adjutants received in the most agreeable manner. The interview took place in the garden, and when T. S. took off

his hat to address the king, as a minister of the gospel, the king and his attendants also took off their hats, and remained uncovered till the communication was ended. The friends then presented an appeal to the king, from Ernst Peytsmeyer, setting forth the persecution he had suffered, on account of his refusal to bear arms. The king appeared greatly surprised; said he knew nothing of the transaction, and that it was wholly without his approbation. L. S. then took the opportunity to remind him, that he was one of those who had presented a petition twenty years before; when the king had assured them, liberty of conscience was a holy thing with him. "So it is," replied the king, "and this young man shall not suffer."

22*nd*, *Second-day.* In the evening, set out for Rehme, about nine miles from Minden, where is a country inn, at which it was thought best for us to stay, during our visit to the Friends of Eidinghausen. We found the fresh air of the country, and the rural scenes of a garden, on the edge of the beautiful stream, a very agreeable change, from the oppressive atmosphere of Minden; morally oppressive indeed it is; a strongly garrisoned town, containing two thousand soldiers, and with that state of manners, which such a population naturally induces; the residence of so many unemployed military, having a demoralizing influence on the character of the inhabitants.

23*rd*, *Third-day.* Went, in the morning, to Eidinghausen, and paid six visits amongst the Friends there. They are, most of them, in very low circumstances, and their state was to us, truly depressing; yet amongst them, were those with whom our minds were drawn into much sympathy, in the belief, that amidst their outward disadvantages, they were seeking after that which is durable. We visited the family of Peytsmeyer, including Ernst, our worthy driver, in the miserable cottage of their mother, and regretted that he must return to the habits of his native village. Wished very much to interest Friends in England, in devising some plan for the raising of their condition, if possible, to that of a comfortable labouring peasantry. We held our little meetings in the large apartment of the cottage, which is pretty much the same in every German village; something like an English barn, with great folding doors and an

earthen floor; at one end, a fire on the hearth, without any chimney; the smoke winding its way to the opposite door, or escaping by some of the many crevices in the roof. Round the sides, are ranged in stalls, all the live-stock of the establishment,—horses, cows, calves, goats and pigs, whilst the poultry inhabit the higher stories, and round the top, a numerous tribe of small birds make their nests: besides these, a miscellaneous assemblage of dogs, cats, &c., inhabit this apartment, where man and beast seem to live harmoniously together. We returned about five o'clock, to our inn, at Rehme; retired to the garden, where, seated by the murmuring stream, we read several sweet hymns, and passed a tranquil evening, long to be remembered. The sun went down in all its beauty, and as we watched it, gradually sinking behind the summits of the distant hills, gilding the purple clouds with its radiance, reminded each other of the surpassing glories of that world, which owes not its light to our luminary; which needeth not the light of the sun, nor of the moon, because the Lord God doth enlighten it, "and the Lamb is the light thereof." Had our evening reading before we retired, and were comforted together, in the remembrance of the love and mercy of our dear Redeemer, who has opened the way for his ransomed people into this glorious city; and though the path He trod, must be trodden also by his faithful followers, in their several degrees of suffering, yet, is it not "enough for the disciple that he be as his Master, and the servant as his Lord?"

24*th*, *Fourth-day.* Went, after an early breakfast, to Eidinghausen; sat down with the Friends and a number of persons of the neighbourhood, in a large room at Carl Henker's; it was a solemn time, wherein we were renewedly favoured with the extension of divine help, and the gospel message flowed to this little assembly. My dear companions were engaged to invite them to gather to the fountain of living waters; and towards the close of the meeting, the covering of supplication was felt, and intercession offered, for those who had turned from the holy commandment, and for the enlargement of the universal church. After meeting, we visited three families, for whom we felt much interested, particularly for that of R—: they appeared very poor, and his wife had undergone a severe surgical operation, by which

she had lost the sight of one eye. We left with them something from R. L.'s liberality, and it appeared a truly acceptable and seasonable help. Returned to Rehme. Ernst cheered us at night, by bringing a packet of letters from England. This is the day, on which our dear friends, in London, assemble for the Yearly Meeting; we have thought much of them, and have been comforted in believing, they are favoured with the covering of heavenly good.

25*th*, *Fifth-day.* Rested to-day at Rehme. Passed the morning in an arbour, on the banks of the river, with my dear sister, writing to our English friends. Went to see the salt-works here; where the purest salt is produced, by evaporation, from a natural spring. The water is pumped up by machinery, to the top of a frame-work, filled with a thick intertexture of thorns, through which it gradually drops, and falling into troughs at the bottom, is conveyed to the boiling houses, where it remains for eight days, in capacious cisterns, over a fire, and forms large, flat crystals of strong salt. We also walked to the spring, about half a mile distant; it is at the depth of one hundred and ninety feet from the surface, and is extremely salt and strongly chalybeate. So large a quantity of carbonic acid gas is evolved from it, as sometimes to make it dangerous for the men to descend.

In the evening, the family at the inn were invited to attend our reading; many of them came, and A. A. addressed them in a very instructive manner; they appeared pleased with the opportunity, and one of the servants, an elderly woman, said, she should be thankful for such an hour every evening.

26*th*, *Sixth-day.* Soon after seven, set out for Hille; a distance of, perhaps, fifteen English miles, through tremendous roads, which we could only traverse at a very slow pace; the country romantic and beautiful. We were frequently obliged to get out and walk. I had hurt my ancle, by slipping from the step of the carriage, and the heat and walking brought on much inflammation. The distance, as usual, turned out much greater than we had been given to expect, and we did not reach the village, till near twelve o'clock, when we found the little company of Friends waiting to receive us; but their neighbours, some of whom had been assembled, were gone. The cottage was of the same description as those we had

before seen, but cleaner, and the Friends, a comfortable looking company, whose faces it was pleasant to see. They soon informed their neighbours of our arrival, and many came. We had a satisfactory meeting, in which our little band were severally engaged; it was in a large room, surrounded by the animals, as before. After the meeting was over, and we had taken some refreshment, we sat down with the few members of our Society, who form this little meeting, and were comforted in believing, that they are honest-hearted professors of religion, who are desirous to be found walking uprightly. Had some interesting conversation with them in German, and parted in the feeling of much interest. We had a warm, dusty ride, through a deep sand, to Minden, about ten miles.

27*th*, *Seventh-day.* Rested, to-day, at Minden, and as to myself, wholly confined to the house; rest being absolutely necessary, on account of the state of my ancle. Much perplexed in mind, respecting our journey from this place. We are to go, on Second-day, towards Hamburgh, and I have, for some days, apprehended it might be right for us to spend, at least, a day, in the city of Hanover; but inquiring about the distances, my companions tell me, it is thirty-five miles out of our way, and as I do not find any of them inclined to go, I feel afraid of urging it.

28*th*, *First-day.* At breakfast, the subject of going to Hanover was renewed; still it made little or no way. At ten, we went to meeting; which was extremely crowded, and the people quiet, considering the great heat of the weather, and pressure of numbers. A. A. was engaged in gospel communication, as were my sister and C. H., and the language of supplication was offered for those present, and for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom. I dined at J. Rasche's; my dear companions returned to the inn. A number of soldiers went to them there, to ask for books: C. Hanbury had walked out; and the whole party went up into A. Alexander's room, where they poured forth their wishes in German, of which she could not understand a word. This unexpected and extraordinary visit, from a company of armed men, naturally gave her a momentary alarm, and she hastily called to my sister, who was in an adjoining apartment. The latter, finding it was a request for tracts, conducted them to our sitting-room, and sup-

plied them with such as she could find in German. They asked what they were to pay, and appeared much pleased, when told they were a gift. I did not go to the reading meeting, in the afternoon; but rested my foot on the sofa, and wept, being, indeed, brought into a great strait, for I felt afraid of laying too much stress on my own feelings, and had hoped that if it were right for us to go by way of Hanover, some of the party, besides myself, would feel it so. My mind was however, quieted, in the desire to be wholly guided by the blessed Master; and I trusted that He would order for us. My companions joined me after meeting, and we sat with four young men; one of them was the friend who had suffered cruel punishments, for his refusal to bear arms,—had been laid on the laths, a peculiar kind of torture; and several of them had suffered, in different ways, or were liable to do so. There was a very solemn feeling in this little sitting, and our party were, each, engaged to encourage them to stedfastness in the hour of trial, and to comfort them in the remembrance of the sufferings of our blessed Lord, who had "trodden the wine-press alone." In the course of conversation, mention being made of our journey for to-morrow, some one present said, though Hanover was out of our way, the road was so much better, that it would not make much difference. It was immediately suggested, that we had better take that route without more hesitation; all quietly acquieseed, and my heart was made thankful to Him, who makes way for his dependent, though unworthy children. In a short time of retirement, our dear friends, J. and J. R., were encouraged to faithfulness, in the performance of every duty, and we took an affectionate leave. Went to see a Lutheran minister and his wife, who have a fine family of five daughters; several of their friends were with them, making quite a group of young people. We took a cup of tea with them, and after some social conversation, C. H. requested a little quiet, and addressed them in an affectionate manner, and they were commended, on the bended knee, to the care and keeping of the great and good Shepherd. The spirit of the place is not favourable to the growth of religion, and we felt much for this family, who appeared well disposed, but evidently weak, and afraid to avow themselves openly.

29*th, Second-day.* Awoke early, with a sweet and consoling remembrance of the hymn in the Olney collection, entitled, "The Believer's safety," and beginning with,

> "Incarnate God! the soul that knows
> Thy name's mysterious power,
> Shall dwell in undisturbed repose,
> Nor fear the trying hour."

Rose, and prepared for our journey. When all was ready, the family were requested to come in for a few minutes. The master and mistress, son and daughter came, and A. A. was engaged in solemn supplication, for the family, the inhabitants of the city, and for the feeble messengers, who had been employed to proclaim the gospel word among them. They appeared pleased with the opportunity. We had a pleasant ride to Bückeburg, where the worthy old friend, Charlotte Althans, came out to meet us, bringing a quantity of nice biscuits, which she begged us to receive, and we took leave of her, with a feeling of much love. Proceeded agreeably through a fine country, till we came within a short distance of Stadthagen, a small town; when one of our horses, which was young and spirited, took fright at a heap of stones by the road-side, and turning short round, whirled the carriage, with surprising force, to the edge of the bank, and gave us all a very great alarm. L. S., who was on the box, instantly sprang off, and went to the horse's head; he immediately became tractable, and we were happily rescued from our perilous situation, without any injury, except a slight bruise received by the postilion. I felt no little on the occasion, having been, in some degree, the cause of our coming this road; but the sweet hymn before-mentioned, was brought forcibly to my remembrance at the moment, and seemed to stay my mind in dependence on God. We have, indeed, great cause for humble thankfulness, in the review of this day's preservation. May the language of our souls be, "What shall I render unto the Lord, for all his benefits towards me?" We all alighted from the carriage, and walked into the town, where we stayed a short time, and then travelled to Niendorf, a pretty village, where is a celebrated sulphur spring; the grounds about the well elegantly laid out, for the accommodation of those who come to

it, as a watering place. We dined, and went on afterwards to Hanover: on the way, passed within sight of the country residence of a person of that city, who is engaged in a Tract Society, on whom C. H. would gladly have called, having procured an introduction to him at Minden, but the postilion could not be prevailed on to diverge from the road. We came into Hanover about half-past six. The approach to it, through a fertile, extended plain; the road wide and good, planted, for some miles, with apple and other trees. The entrance of the city, over a bridge crossing the river Seine, is beautiful. In the evening, L. S. and C. H. called on a bookseller of the name of Harn, a man of some influence, and one of the directors of the Bible Society.

30*th*, *Third-day*. This morning, a serious person of the name of Brenneeke, a shoemaker, called at our inn. From him we obtained much interesting information; find there is a little company who meet at his house, on First-day evenings, for religious improvement: some of them, in an infant state and fearful of avowing themselves, but he undertook to inquire, whether they could be collected before our departure. There was a precious feeling about this worthy man, who seems to stand much alone, and, after our morning reading, we were enabled to salute him, as a fellow-believer in our Lord and Saviour. He appeared to feel what was expressed; told us of a number of pious persons who have withdrawn themselves from the usual modes of worship, at a small place, between this city and Brunswick. They have met with much opposition, and have increased in proportion. It was fixed for us to go in the evening, to meet a small number of serious persons, at the house of — Pellens, about a mile out of the city. We found P. and his family, our friend B. and several others, in their pleasant garden. We were conducted into an upper room, where we sat down in silence; and our little band were engaged to encourage them, to follow a crucified Saviour, even though it might be in the path of suffering; seeing it is only those, who are willing to suffer with Him, that can hope to reign with Him. We were, on the whole, glad we were with them; though we apprehended, they were not in general very strong in their profession, yet, I trust some of them are sincerely desirous to be found faithful. Had a pleasant ride back, through

the suburbs, which are beautiful, though the city itself is ancient and gloomy.

31*st*, *Fourth-day.* Went on to Celle, a very pretty town, and a place of much consequence, being the principal law court in Hanover. It is here, the unhappy Queen of Denmark (our Princess Matilda) died, after several years' confinement. We dined at the table d'hôte, where we met a number of genteel looking persons, who were very agreeable and well-behaved; we conversed, as well as we could, in our imperfect German. We found that a willingness to go to the table d'hôte, from which we shrunk at first, was very necessary; it was often the means of our meeting, unexpectedly, with opportunities for the distribution of tracts, and sometimes of conversation with serious persons. Left Celle, and travelled through a deep sand, to Bergen. The day fine, but hot; the country much flatter than we have lately seen it, and occasionally barren, but in many places, enriched with corn or pasturage, and the varied shading of the foliage, in its spring green;—the stately oak, the waving birch, the majestic and full-flowered chestnut, blending with several varieties of fir, whilst the stunted juniper covered the foreground of this forest scene.

Sixth Month 1*st*, *Fifth-day.* Had a long, fatiguing day's journey, of fifty-eight miles, over very rough roads. As we approached Harburg, the country became more diversified; the wood scenery very fine, and gradually ascending a hill, a most imposing and extensive prospect opened before us; the Elbe winding beautifully through the vale beneath our feet, and close to its banks, lay the town of Harburg, finely shaded with wood, whilst, in the distance, the towers and lofty spires of Hamburgh and Altona, gave a striking effect to the whole. We came into Harburg, just in time for the evening steam-boat; left the carriage there, and proceeded down the river, to Hamburgh, where we soon found ourselves, agreeably lodged in the inn, called the "Stadt Petersburg," on the Jungfernstieg.

2*nd*, *Sixth-day.* Hamburgh is a busy, commercial city, containing people from many nations, and affording interesting opportunities to the observer of mankind, but, alas! little that is refreshing to the mind of the christian, who desires to keep his

eye fixed on the better country. We dined at the table d'hôte, with a very respectable-looking company, of about forty persons; met there some very agreeable people, particularly a Lutheran minister, from Bremen, who recognized L. S., and said, he had sat by him in the Friends' meeting at Pyrmont. In the evening, we were introduced to W. Holpsapple, a very agreeable, thoughtful-looking young man, who has resided some time in London, where he had formed an acquaintance with several Friends. He is very kind and attentive to us, and appears desirous to render us every service in his power.

3rd, Seventh-day. R. Jackson, an English merchant, residing here, called on us; he was well known to T. Shillitoe. W. H. also came, and with him, Gilbert Vander Smissen. G. V. S. and his brothers, with their now aged father, were, a few years ago, merchants of high standing in Hamburgh, but, by a series of heavy losses, and, perhaps, too much extending their concerns, they became embarrassed, and failed. We had an affecting time together, wherein we entered into sympathy with each other, under the different trials that had been permitted; there was a sweet feeling over us, and the voice of thanksgiving was offered, for the many mercies bestowed, and for those dispensations of sorrow and affliction, which are designed to bring us nearer to the source of purity and love. Our hearts were melted together, under a sense of the goodness of Jehovah, all whose paths are, indeed, mercy and truth, to them who keep his covenant and his testimonies. In the afternoon, W. Matthews, a young English minister, and his wife called on us, and were very friendly and agreeable, also a person of the name of Weichers. He appears to be a humble follower of our dear Saviour, and his company was instructive to us: he buried, five years ago, a very amiable wife, who had lived with him eleven months, in an affectionate union, and has left a little boy. The composure, yet tenderness, with which he spoke of her memory, and of her peaceful and happy entrance on eternity, were animating and affecting. Although he had evidently a very lively feeling of his loss, he appeared able to repose on the consoling assurance, that his beloved partner was beyond the reach of sorrow and suffering, and centred for ever in eternal rest. We called on the family of H. Manecke, a merchant, who knows

L. Seebohm, and who had sent us a pressing invitation; his wife, a very pleasing woman: they had with them a friend of theirs and his wife; also J. Woltman, the daughter of a merchant here. They were all truly kind; most of them spoke English. We paid them a very pleasant visit, and after tea had been handed, we were favoured with a quiet feeling; when the desire was expressed, that our social interview might be made an opportunity of stimulating each other, in the pursuit of those things which are excellent. We parted in much love. As there is no opening in this country for holding meetings, the only way in which we are able to meet with serious individuals, is to accept such invitations as we receive, to the houses of those to whom we have access, and, in simplicity, endeavour to yield to any little openings that may arise. It is cause of thankfulness, to meet with a few in almost every place, who appear to be preserved alive in spirit. The state of religion is, indeed, low in this country, and those who are, in any degree, made willing to stand for its support, have peculiar difficulties; but, amidst the general tide of dissipation, there are some, who, as they continue faithful, will, we trust, show forth the Lord's praise, and be as a dew from Him, in the midst of many people.

4*th*, *First-day*. In our retirement, this morning, we were favoured with a precious quiet, and were, I think, enabled, in some measure, to drink together into one spirit; under the influence of this, I trust, a few words were expressed, and the voice of supplication ascended, for the blessing of preservation, and for the extension of divine goodness, to this city and nation. Before dinner, a person of the name of Hüppeden called on us; we told him, it was our intention to sit down, in the evening, for the purpose of divine worship. He accordingly joined us; and afterwards entered into a friendly and animated conversation, on some of the leading tenets of our Society.

5*th*, *Second-day*. C. M. and J. W. called on us; their company was particularly agreeable, and their conversation very affecting. They spoke of the state of religion amongst them, and, with tears, contrasted it with the religious privileges of England; we felt much for them. When we parted, they begged to be remembered in our prayers, and we took leave in much affection,

and in the hope, if not permitted to meet again in this life, that we may be, one day, united, where separation is no more. Dined at table d'hôte, and met some agreeable persons. Spent the evening at S. Jackson's, an English merchant, an agreeable and seriously disposed man. He had with him, a young man from Liverpool, J. M., who has become, of late, increasingly religious. We had much interesting conversation, and, before we parted, A. A. addressed them instructively, and C. H. was engaged in supplication for them.

6th, Third-day. Went to tea with our friend G. V. S. and his sweet wife. They are, with their aged father, an interesting group. W. H. joined us. The elder Vander Smissen, a most venerable, fine, old man, about eighty years of age, apparently drawing near to his heavenly rest, with a heart full of love to his Redeemer, and staid in a peaceful trust, which has kept him through many vicissitudes. Speaking of the year in which their great losses occurred, he says, he believes the Lord continued his life till then, that he might get more fully quit of the dross of the earth. The feeling of precious quiet that hovered around, even while we were enjoying a little social conversation, was very striking, and, at length, became so prevalent, that all yielded to it. It was an evening not to be forgotten, and we parted, under the cementing influence of that love which surmounts all the diversities of this mixed state, and is like an earnest of the reunion, we humbly hope, one day, to enjoy, before the throne of God, through the mercy of Him who loved us, and gave Himself for us, and washed us in his own blood. To Him be praise and glory, for ever and ever!

7th, Fourth-day. Walked before breakfast on the Jungfernstieg,—low and perplexed in mind; we felt unable to decide about our passage, being very unwilling to let Ann Alexander go alone. Letters from England were welcomed by all our party, some of us having been much disappointed, in not receiving them regularly. We sat down for a short time of retirement together, but were interrupted by the arrival of the captain, who sails with the *Whim* to Hull. A. A. engaged her passage in this vessel.* Dined at

* This was A. A.'s most direct course homewards.

table d'hôte. C. Hanbury went to see the vessel that meets the Harwich packet at Cuxhaven. He secured berths for us in her, which was quite a relief to my sister and myself. After tea, we went to Altona. Came back by the ramparts, which are laid out for a public walk, tastefully planted with shrubs and flowers, and kept in neat order. Gravel walks wind through the shade of fine trees, over a diversified surface of ground, and command, at different points, views of the Elbe, the shipping of the port of Hamburgh, and the opposite shore, stretching in distant perspective. Had our evening reading, and retired, I trust, with thankful hearts for the feeling of quiet, in the prospect of once more embarking on the great deep.

8*th*, *Fifth-day*. Went to Ottensen, to breakfast at the house of R. Jackson ; his wife is a native of Hampshire ; they have a lovely family of children, appear to be serious, valuable characters, and were very friendly to us. W. M. met us here ; he read the eighteenth chapter of Acts after breakfast, and engaged in prayer, we thought, with considerable feeling. After he had concluded a petition for all present, C. H. knelt down with a supplication for our dear friends of the family, and for the little few who are endeavouring to stand for the Lord's cause in this city. It was an impressive and uniting time.

A. S., a very serious and sensible woman, called on us, as she did one day before ; was desirous to obtain information respecting the principles of Friends, particularly on the point of women's preaching. We endeavoured to explain their views, and lent her a copy of J. J. Gurney's "Peculiarities." She told us on this second visit, that it had been quite satisfactory to her, and that she had derived encouragement from it, for she is in the habit, it appears, of seeing many young persons at her house, and occasionally imparts to them religious instruction ; this, she said, was not approved by some of the pastors. We begged her to accept the book, with which she was pleased, and took leave with much affection : sent us afterwards a German volume, "Betrachtungen über einzelne Abschnitte der Heiligen Schrift," of which I have since heard she is the author. Went to tea at J. Vander Smissen's at Altona, where we met another brother and wife, and their large family of pleasing young people ; several of

their friends also joined us. We were favoured with a precious feeling of heavenly good, under which, the young people were instructively addressed, and the company were encouraged to stedfastness, in the faith and in the service of the dear Redeemer. We parted under that uniting influence, which is the cement of the christian family.

9th, Sixth-day. Several of our friends breakfasted with us. After our reading the fourth of John, C. H. addressed them. The language of thanksgiving was afterwards offered, and of intercession, in the name of a compassionate Saviour, for the faithful few here and everywhere, for the inhabitants of this country, and for all those who are turning aside from the holy commandment. We parted under a solemn feeling. Dear J. W. came in at the close, and took a most affectionate leave of us. She is a sweet, interesting girl, apparently much impressed with the importance of religion, and very diffident of herself; said she was very weak, and that it was so easy to go back, without great watchfulness and divine help. We visited this morning, two missionaries from the society in London, for promoting christianity among the Jews; Mauritz and O'Neil. They were engaged in the instruction of five Jewish children, the small beginning of a school they are endeavouring to establish. Their progress was pleasing, and we were gratified in seeing them.

A. Alexander expressed a wish, to visit the company at table d'hôte; a request was therefore sent to permit her to do so. We accompanied,—it was a great trial of faith. The master of the inn, and, I believe, all the men servants, were present. A. A. was seated at the head of the long table, and was engaged in supplication for the company, for the inhabitants of the city and country, and particularly for the household. It was a time of remarkable quiet. When we retired, many rose to shake hands, and several, who had dined there every day, took a most cordial leave, and expressed their good wishes. J. M., who was most kindly attentive, went with us on board the *Courier*, the little vessel that was to convey us to Cuxhaven. We sailed about four o'clock, P. M.; four passengers besides ourselves; had a fair wind and pleasant sail down the Elbe, a majestic river. The city and port of Hamburgh had a fine effect, as they gradually receded from our view. The steep

banks of the river, for many miles, shaded with rich woods, amongst which, villas and pleasure grounds tastefully situated, have a picturesque appearance. Before we had proceeded far, the gathering blackness towards the south, indicated an approaching tempest, and it soon burst upon us, in peals of loud thunder and flashes of awfully vivid lightning, with some rain. We were obliged to go below, but returned to the deck soon after six, when the storm had subsided, and had left a serene sky and the surface of the water almost calm, having taken away the fine breeze that had before filled our sails. Towards night, it freshened again, and with the ebb in our favour, we glided gently down the river; passed on the left, Stade, in the Hanoverian dominions, a strong fortress belonging to the English, and lower down on the right, Glückstadt, a Danish fortress, bombarded by the English in 1813. Retired to the cabin before ten, and read the hundred and fourth psalm; went to our comfortable berths and slept well till near two o'clock, (on the morning of the 10th) when a bustle on deck and the sound of the pumps, startled us, and gave us the idea of danger, especially as we had, for some time, perceived our gradual approach to greater waters, by the increased pitching of our little vessel. It did not, however, prove to be any thing serious. On deck at half-past two,—lovely morning,—sea beautiful,—dawn very fine,—light-house at Cuxhaven a-head;—a brig from London going for Hamburgh, in sight. Landed at Cuxhaven, sixty-five English miles from Hamburgh, and were comfortably accommodated at the "König von England," kept by an Englishman. About four in the afternoon, discovered a distant sail, which we conjectured might be the *Whim*; we therefore, took a boat and went out to some distance to watch her. As she proceeded under full sail, majestically towards us, we were confirmed in the idea, and waving a white handkerchief on an umbrella, for a signal, had soon the pleasure of seeing them open their gangway, lower the steps, and bear towards us. We came along-side, went on board, and had the great satisfaction of seeing our dear cousin once more. We parted in a few minutes, and saw the vessel go finely to sea, with her canvass well filled.

11*th*, *First-day*. Sat down together, and had a precious time

of quiet. After reading, the voice of prayer was permitted to arise, for preservation over the mighty deep,—for our dear friends in England,—for the inhabitants of that land we were about to leave, and for the faithful, everywhere. Went on board the *Castlereagh*, Captain Wadling, an English packet. Only two passengers, besides ourselves; Captain Doubadieu and his wife; he is engineer of the Festung, at Stade. They are very friendly and kind; Captain W. attentive and agreeable, and accommodations excellent. Off Heligoland; an abrupt, high, flat rock, with a light-house upon it. Glorious sunset, with uncommonly fanciful appearances in the clouds, as the orb sank gradually in the ocean. As night approached, the light on Heligoland very brilliant. Beautiful moon; sat on deck, and watched its beams on the gently moving waters. Went below, and read the hundred and seventh psalm.

12*th*, *Second-day*. Fine, warm morning; but almost a dead calm. Mate says, we have scarcely made three miles all night. Breakfasted with our fellow-passengers, captain and mate. Afterwards, C. H. requested permission to read a psalm; it was very readily acceded to; he read the hundred and third and fourth, and a precious, quiet feeling, attended. Lovely moonlight evening.

15*th*, *Fifth-day*. Fine breeze;—beautiful view of Suffolk coast;—in sight of Southwold, and several pretty villages. Captain W. concluded to go ashore, with the mail, in a small boat, that put off to us from Southwold; we accompanied him and landed safely, between ten and eleven. Set off for Ipswich; Captain W. bringing the mail. We arrived between five and six, and found the town in the bustle of a contested election; stayed a few minutes, at the inn, and took leave of our truly kind captain, about whom we all felt interested; he appears under considerable trial of mind, and very thoughtful; has lately lost his wife, to whom he was tenderly attached. Called at R. D. Alexander's, who received us very kindly. Went two stages further, to Colchester, and lodged at the Three Cups, a comfortable inn, kept by a religious woman;—bibles in the chambers.

16*th*, *Sixth-day*. Travelled on to London, and reached Plough Court, under feelings, I trust I may say, of humble gratitude to

our great Preserver. In the pause before dinner, dear C. H. offered, with great feeling, the tribute of praise and thanksgiving.

17*th*, *Seventh-day.* Breakfasted together, and were comforted afterwards, in reading the tenth of Hebrews, and a sweet German hymn; for our spirits were somewhat affected by the excitement of meeting our friends, and the many recollections of past days, that always accompany our return home.

18*th*, *First-day.* Went to meeting, with W. Allen and C. Hanbury. The latter, engaged in a short but lively testimony; my dear sister in supplication, and I was most easy to offer something on the nature and efficacy of faith. Isabella Harris, from Yorkshire, made some addition, and the meeting ended, I trust, under a feeling of good. Dinner at Plough Court. It was a time of precious feeling, and when the cloth was removed, I felt constrained, once more, to bend the knee and offer the tribute of praise, with a petition for all present: but especially for some who had been fed with the bread of affliction, and had tears to drink in great measure, but who had been marvellously sustained through all, and during a long course of years, had abundantly tasted of the Lord's goodness, faithfulness and truth. Dear W. A. took a most kind and affectionate leave of us, and his fatherly kindness, every way, affected us much.

19*th*, *Second-day.* Cornelius Hanbury most kindly cared for us to the last. Came with us to Ludgate Hill, to take the coach; where we parted, under a feeling of that precious unity, which binds together those who are seeking to follow the same Saviour; and in which they are, in one sense, never separated, though outwardly far distant. Had a safe, but fatiguing, journey to Southampton. Many and very mingled, are the feelings that attend our return, but we are favoured to feel it a peaceful, quiet habitation.

This interesting account of their journey, may be appropriately closed, by the following memorandum, in reference to it, under date of 1841.

Very many exercises of faith and patience and close conflicts, we passed through in this journey, but it is one to which we have

ever recurred, and to which I do still recur, with a grateful sense of the mercies we experienced, and of the opportunities that were afforded us, for entering into sympathy, not only with the little company of Friends who were the more immediate object of our visit, but with christian characters of different denominations, scattered through the cities and towns, we visited, amidst a mass of irreligion and impiety, seeking humbly to follow their Saviour, in the narrow way that leads to the kingdom. Some of these are brought sweetly, at times, to my remembrance, with desires, that though we may never meet again on earth, we may be found, at the end of the race, amongst the blessed number of the Lord's redeemed and sanctified ones.

CHAPTER V.

1826. Illness of a near relation—House of Refuge—Quarterly Meeting—W. and R. Byrd—Awful catastrophe—Races—Monthly Meeting—Offer of marriage—Letters—Death of her cousin—Quarterly Meeting—Visit to the Isle of Wight—Monthly Meeting—Liberated for religious engagement—Irish society—H. M.'s visits to workhouse—Letters—Bible meeting—Leaves home for neighbourhood of London—Staines—Uxbridge—Brentford—Visit to families of Gracechurch-street Meeting—Return home—Quarterly Meeting—Illness.

On their return home from this journey, a new trial awaited them, in the illness and subsequent decease, of a near relative, their cousin, Joseph Hoyland. Having been, about two years previously, an inmate in their family, and possessing a mind richly endowed with intellectual gifts, he was one, in whom they could not but feel a deep and lively interest. His widowed mother, Margaret Hoyland, of Waterford, was a woman of strong natural powers, and in a remarkable degree, qualified for sympathizing with, and succouring, the sick and the afflicted.

Sixth Month 20th, Third-day. Rose, under a feeling of thankfulness to our great and bountiful Lord, who was pleased to lead us out, to carry us safely through many dangers, seen and unseen; through many deep exercises and conflicts of spirit, and to bring us again in peace to our native land. After breakfast and reading, had a short time of quiet with my precious sister, wherein ability was mercifully afforded, once more, to offer the tribute of praise, and to commit ourselves into the divine keeping, desiring strength to perform the duties of the day, of whatsoever kind they may be; and to do or suffer the whole will of God. Went, afterwards, to call on our afflicted relatives; found my

dear aunt (whom we had not seen for fifteen years) alone. Joseph came down before we left, and prepared as we were, it was very affecting to see the alteration in his countenance, since we last met. The complaint appears to have assumed a decided character, and to be making certain, though very gradual, progress. Oh! for ability to commend this interesting relative to that compassionate Saviour, who came not to call the righteous, and whose blessed office it is, to seek and to save that which has been lost; that through his all-powerful mediation, true repentance may be found, and reconciliation, through faith in his blood, before that awful moment, when the afflicted tabernacle must resign its immortal inhabitant. My spirits low this evening; but in secret, quietly sustained, I trust, in a degree of dependence on that which is unchangeable.

21*st*, *Fourth-day*. After breakfast, called at the House of Refuge, and were much pleased to see it in so comfortable a state. The women who were there, when we left home three months ago, appeared much pleased to see us. Went on to our little meeting. In the afternoon, Dr. Lindoe came to see us, and to welcome us home; left us the draft of the Annual Report of the House of Refuge, to read. Our hearts were greatly affected in the perusal of it. It contains the account of the death of one of the young women, for whom we had been interested, and who was ill when we left home. She was, for some time, much distressed, under the heavy sense of her sinful condition, but was, at length, enabled to look, with an eye of faith, towards our great and blessed Mediator, and departed, with a comfortable hope of forgiveness and reconciliation, through his merits. I trust we were filled with humble thankfulness, and felt stimulated to press forward in this work, for the benefit of our distressed and degraded fellow-creatures.

24*th*, *Seventh-day*. Before breakfast, in a short time of retirement, was comforted in believing, we are graciously cared for by the great and good Shepherd, and felt a little renewed ability, to commit all to his disposal. Oh! that He may guide us, in all things, by his counsel, and make us strong to do his will!

25*th*, *First-day*. Went to meeting; low, flat and stripped. Much tried, in the early part, with wandering thoughts. Before

the close, a renewed feeling of the divine goodness, was mercifully granted, under which, I ventured on my knees, and supplication was offered for our dear fellow-believers, under every name, in a distant land; and for the professors of religion in this highly-favoured country, that we may not be suffered to sink into indifference, but that we may be awakened to a consideration of our awful responsibility, for the many advantages we are favoured with.

29*th*, *Fifth-day.* In the evening, called on my dear aunt and cousins. Joseph, we thought altered, since we saw him last; more sunk, but it was pleasant to observe a greater degree of quietude. Oh! that I may be enabled, properly to feel for this afflicted relative, and seek after ability to pray for him, to the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; for he seems to be, indeed, fast approaching the confines of another state of being.

Seventh Month 1*st*, *Seventh-day.* My mind much divested of good, and fearing, lest a state of indifference should wholly seize on me. "Oh! for a closer walk with God," I may well exclaim, for it is only by keeping close to Him, that we can hope to be kept from the many snares of an unwearied enemy, who is constantly preparing temptations, adapted to our various characters and circumstances. Oh! that the lamp of divine light may be continually fed with holy oil, by constant watching unto prayer! Dined with a serious friend, and had some interesting conversation, on the difficulty of maintaining the happy medium, in our intercourse with the world, between a repulsive distance and undue compliance.

2*nd*, *First-day.* Remained at home, in the evening, having still a weakness in one ancle. I hope not resting from idleness; for I consider the opportunity of meeting together, on the days set apart for worship, a precious privilege, and one that we should make sacrifices to enjoy; for though it be often our lot to sit in low places, in our meetings, still this is not without its use, if we are willing to abide with Christ, and to feel our own nothingness; and there are seasons, when the Lord is pleased, by the influence of his good Spirit, to open streams in the wilderness, and to refresh his thirsty, weary children, with a draught of that river which maketh glad the city of God

5th, Fourth-day. Set out for Alton, to attend the Quarterly Meeting; got in soon after four. Saw several friends, who welcomed us home very cordially.

6th, Fifth-day. It was truly pleasant, again, to meet our dear friends. Went to meeting, a season favoured with much instruction. Before it separated, we were strengthened to give a short account of our late journey, and were renewedly comforted, in the remembrance of the divine goodness and condescension.

7th, Sixth-day. Reached home. Many things, this day, had pressed on our minds, as causes of some anxiety. Retired at night, with a little renewal of ability, to commit ourselves to the divine keeping, desiring, I trust, chiefly, the favour of Him whose loving kindness is better than life. May we be willing to follow Him, whereseever He may be pleased to lead, casting our cares on Him, in simple faith, and then we shall know that the name of the Lord is still a strong tower, and that He is the all-sufficient helper of those who put their trust in Him;—a compassionate and tender father, who considers our frame, and knows the various necessities of our several states; to his all-seeing eye our most secret sorrows are open, and He is the true comforter of his little dependent ones. Oh, then, my soul! let nothing shake thy quiet confidence, thy humble trust, but let thy language ever be,—Here am I, O Lord! do with me, whatsoever seemeth good in thy sight.

9th, First-day. At meeting, this morning, dear W. Byrd expressed a little, on the great duty of worship, and the necessary preparation for it. His valuable wife was much enlarged in gospel labour, for all classes present: it was a memorable time. My sister and I took tea at J. Clark's, where we met W. and R. B Several persons, not of our Society, were there, and the conversation turned much on the sufferings of the negroes. Before we left, a little stillness was obtained; and R. B. addressed us, very sweetly, on the subject, recommending us to cherish feelings of sympathy with these depressed and degraded fellow-creatures, and, when ability is afforded, to intercede for them at the footstool of mercy. She added sweet and pertinent counsel to the dear young people present; encouraging them to give up their hearts to the righteous government of Christ.

10*th*, *Second-day.* Went this morning to the House of Refuge; read to the women, and had some serious conversation with C. B., who seems very poorly, and looks likely to be consumptive. She appeared in a feeling state, and said, she felt very thankful for the great mercy of being brought into this institution. I hope, there is a good work begun in her, and that through unutterable condescension, this poor young woman is, in some measure, convinced of her state, and of the necessity of seeking to Him, with whom only, redemption is to be found. My spirits to-day, low, but somewhat comforted by this opportunity. Several things tended to depress me, and brought my mind into a state of trial and distress; but, in the afternoon, was a little cheered, by opening on the hundredth hymn of the "Morgenandachten," in Preuss's, "Siona." It was adapted to soothe a troubled spirit, by directing it to the true Comforter, the tender and compassionate Shepherd, who careth for the feeblest of his flock. May I, from day to day, cast all my care on Him, seeking only to be his dependent, devoted child, and trust his goodness, faithfulness and truth in all things.

11*th*, *Third-day.* This morning, received a letter, with an account of the return of our certificates to the "Morning Meeting," and of the reading of the short statement, sent in by dear A. A. and ourselves; it appears to have brought a solemnizing and precious covering over the meeting. That this was permitted to attend, is indeed, cause of humble gratitude to Him, who has been pleased to wind up our little labour, under the renewed evidence, that He is the all-sufficient helper of his people; and whilst we deeply feel, that, "neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth," may we look, in humble faith, to that God, who only giveth the increase.

12*th*, *Fourth-day.* Not able to accompany my dear sister to our little meeting. Alone, most of the day, but not sad. Led to consider the gracious condescension of our divine Master, how He bears with all the waywardness of his unworthy children. Ought not this to teach us the greatest tenderness and forbearance towards one another? "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Oh! that I may, more and more, seek after this seal of discipleship. In

the afternoon, P. Maurice came in, bringing a book from her sister E.; it contains manuscript accounts of the death-bed expressions of several of their pious friends;—read one of them, to my comfort. What has life to offer, in its brightest moments, that shall be balanced against one ray of hope, at the hour of death?—that solemn hour, when all its pleasures, its projects, its delusions, shall vanish like a dream, and leave the disappointed, troubled spirit, nothing to cling to, but the mercy of God in Christ Jesus. And who shall depend on this being extended at such a moment, to those who, through a course of years, have resisted its sacred visitations, have turned a deaf ear to its holy pleadings! How dreadful a thing it is, to trifle with the offers of divine grace, to put off, from day to day, the great and necessary work of repentance,

> "And to the mercies of a moment, leave
> The vast concerns of an eternal scene."

My heart is, this evening, again made sensible, that there is abundant reason to leave all anxiety, and to cast all our care on the Lord, to lead a life of cheerful, thankful dependence on Him who heareth the cry of the young ravens, and regardeth the very sparrows. How astonishing is the practical infidelity of the human heart! Though we have tasted of the Lord's mercies, day by day, and have seen his providential care extended to us, from our very infancy, yet, on every cross occurrence or discouraging aspect of our affairs, we are ready to distrust, or at least to give way to unprofitable anxiety, which is a species of distrust. When shall we fully realize the feeling conveyed in those simple and beautiful words,—

> "What, to-day, Thou shalt provide,
> Let me, as a child receive;
> What, to-morrow may betide,
> Calmly to thy wisdom leave.
> 'Tis enough that Thou wilt care,
> Why should I the burden bear?"

13*th*, *Fifth-day.* Read before breakfast, a part of the seventh psalm in the original. Afterwards, studied my German for an

hour: I am desirous not to neglect this, having found the little I know of it so useful in our late journey. I was confined at home, to-day, by my lameness; did not improve the opportunity as I ought to have done, for meditation on divine things.

14*th*, *Sixth-day.* Rose this morning, with a strong sense of my own unprofitableness. Oh! that I may more and more feel this, and the constant necessity there is, to have my supplies renewed from the one eternal Source; for it is only as our hearts are daily operated on, by the Holy Spirit, that we can perform the smallest duties of life, as they ought to be performed: the semblance may be there, but without this vivifying, quickening principle, it is a dead offering. Oh! for a more earnest seeking to do all under this holy influence, by continual watchfulness unto prayer! Oh! for a constantly prevailing sense of being always in the sight of Him, whose eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth; and "who knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity!" Felt very desirous to have my daily occupations so arranged, as that every hour should be employed, in the most profitable manner, for myself and others, under that regulating influence which will distinguish between self-activity and self-indulgence. Make me diligent, O Lord! ever diligent, seeing there are only twelve hours in the day wherein we can work, but let it be in thy fear, and under thy guidance. The christian must not look for rest, on this side the grave; his rest is to be in eternity. Surely, he ought to labour cheerfully through the whole of life's short day, looking to that solemn period, when, however devoted he may have been, he must acknowledge himself an unprofitable servant.

15*th*, *Seventh-day.* In the afternoon, a visit from a person of very agreeable manners, but one whose views of many subjects are very different from our own. Felt afraid, after he was gone, lest I had not been sufficiently guarded in conversation, or had not endeavoured, as much as I might, to give it a useful direction: the thought was painful to me through the remainder of the day.

16*th*, *First-day.* Awoke with my mind turned to the consideration of my own weakness, and of the great necessity there is, to seek continually for the aid of the divine Spirit, that would, if we were, in all things, to follow its holy guidance, gradually

invest us with the whole armour of light. How dangerous to venture into the world without this sacred mail!—to rush inconsiderately into danger, without humbly seeking to Him, who only can preserve us unhurt, and enable us to maintain our ground in his fear. We are indeed, weak, unstable creatures, but God is faithful, who is able to establish us and keep us from evil. Oh, that I may seek constantly to dwell in Him!

"Innig, traulich, musst du dich
Stets an Jesu halten;
Auf ihn schauen stätiglich,
Und ihn lassen walten:
Licht und Leben, Kraft und Gnad',
Man allein in Jesu hat!"*

18*th*, *Third-day.* Feel myself very unprofitable, and destitute of good, yet, at times, feebly desiring to do or suffer whatever may be the divine will. Oh! that I may so earnestly and resignedly seek, as to be permitted to discover what that will is! If once clearly manifested, that is enough for the truly humble soul. He who is all wisdom and love, will not require anything that is not really best for us, nor anything that He will not supply strength to meet, if it be sought in reverent, patient submission. Oh, then! "my soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from Him."

20*th*, *Fifth-day.* Read, before breakfast, a few sections of the "Kleine Kempis;" on the detachment of the soul from the creatures, and the happiness of fixing it entirely on God. O, blessed and desirable state! for He alone is the fountain of strength, the centre of stability; they who look for support in anything without God, will find themselves miserably disappointed. The world may promise much, but can give nothing of that substantial joy, that solid peace, which is to be found only in the union of the soul with its divine Creator and Redeemer. Happy for those who

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* Keep thy Saviour ever nigh,
On Him, fix thy constant eye;
Let Him be thy guide, thy stay,
Give thee strength from day to day;
Light and life and grace are known,
In our Saviour Christ alone.

can, at times, feel they have an interest in these blessed words, "My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you."

22*nd*, *Seventh-day.* Heard of the death of — K—; lost in the Southampton Water, by the upsetting of a boat, in which he was going to the Isle of Wight. Both he and his wife were acquaintances of ours; she is a pleasing, amiable young woman, and will, I fear, be overwhelmed by this awfully sudden bereavement. It is a very affecting circumstance to many; and to my own mind, forcibly recalls the time, when, four years ago, I was in great danger from a squall of wind, whilst out in a boat with a friend. I was, at the time, much impressed with this providential deliverance, and desire to have it still in thankful remembrance. May our compassionate Heavenly Father, who is the bounteous giver and watchful preserver of life, be pleased to bestow grace to use it, in his fear, and to employ the remaining portion, whether it be longer or shorter, in humble submission to his divine disposal! And Oh! that this awful instance of the uncertainty of life, may be made useful to some who are living in the enjoyment of the world, and I fear, too much forgetting, whilst they walk in the sight of their eyes and in the ways of their heart, that for all these things, God will bring them into judgment. O Thou! who makest the clouds thy chariot, and thy pavilion round about Thee, dark waters and thick clouds of the skies, be pleased, we beseech Thee, to awaken them to a sense of their danger, and give them repentance towards Thee, and faith towards thy beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Draw them, by the cords of thy love, into that fold, of which He is the gracious and everlasting Shepherd, that so, they may become useful members of thy militant church on earth, and be finally added, through thy redeeming mercy in Christ Jesus our Lord, to thy church triumphant in heaven.

25*th*, *Third-day.* The town in a great stir, making preparations for the races, to-morrow and next day. It is depressing, to a reflecting mind, to see so many persons, who are formed for elevated pursuits, and capable of diffusing around them, so much real benefit and rational enjoyment, wholly absorbed in this anticipated amusement and its accompanying dissipations; for-

getting that life was not given us, merely to be frittered away in empty pleasures and gay recreations, and that every moment of it is registered in that awful book, which is, one day, to be opened before an assembled world, by the great Judge of quick and dead. When I reflect on these solemn truths, my heart is often filled with a sympathy that I cannot express, for those who have passed their whole lives in that kind of association, which has only tended to confirm the natural inclination to corrupt pleasures, an inclination, which, perhaps, their education also, has rather been calculated to foster than to correct. How widely different is the situation of such, from that of many who have been shielded, from their very infancy, from the allurements and temptations of the world, and who therefore, must not take any merit to themselves, for being absent from scenes of gaiety, in which they have neither the desire nor the qualification to mingle. There is One, and One only, who fully knows the temptations of some, and the advantages of others, and He will judge righteous judgment. Whilst therefore, we properly may mourn over the inconsiderate levity of thousands around us, let us guard carefully against the spirit of the self-righteous pharisee, who thanked God, that he was not like other men; let us rather humble ourselves to the dust, in the consideration of our deadness, unfruitfulness, unprofitableness, though we have been planted as in the Lord's heritage, and abundantly watered with the dew of heaven. Surely, to us belongeth confusion of face. Quicken us, O Lord! in thy fear, and cause the fruits of the Spirit to be produced in us, to the praise of thy great and ever adorable name.

29*th*, *Seventh-day.* A poor account of our dear J. H. I went over, and was most of the day at the house. Sat a few minutes by the bed-side of our interesting sufferer. I had not seen him for two weeks. It was a moment of inexpressible feeling to me, and I sat by him in silence, but did not feel able to express anything to him, as to the solemn prospect. We have indeed, a merciful and faithful High Priest, and into his holy hand, I desire to commit this dear relative.

30*th*, *First-day.* My mind, at meeting, unsettled and greatly tried with wandering thoughts. Oh! the besetments of this

earthly nature; how prone are we to be distracted by trifles, and in how many ways does the enemy busy himself, to draw us from our proper centre, and if he can succeed in this, he cares not by what means. When the enemy comes in like a flood, it is only the divine Spirit, that can effectually lift up the standard against him. Oh, my soul! wait thou upon God, and be silent before Him.

31*st*, *Second-day.* In the morning, went with my sister and C. E. P. to the Refuge; had a comfortable reading with the poor women, and after it, my dear H. M. supplicated on their behalf; they discovered considerable sensibility, and it was a solemn, impressive time.

Eighth Month 1*st*, *Third-day.* Another month passed away, and where am I? Still, through unmerited mercy, continued in life, and in the possession of its many blessings. Oh! that I may be enabled more diligently to improve it, more freely to devote it to the great Giver, who, only, has a right to the disposal of his frail creatures. Make me, O Lord! what Thou wilt; make me willing to do or to suffer anything Thou shalt be pleased to appoint, but give me grace, I beseech Thee, to distinguish thy holy and gentle voice from that of the stranger. Suffer me never to follow the dictates of my own heart, in opposition to thy will, or to mistake the fervour of imagination, for the impulse of thy blessed Spirit; but, Oh! grant, that I may be one of those sheep who know thy voice, and follow it, and to whom Thou wilt give, in thy adorable mercy, eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A. S. came, in the evening, to take leave, and spent an hour, very pleasantly to us. He possesses a richly gifted and highly cultivated mind; greatly do we desire, the more decided support and comfort of religious experience, may be added to his many intellectual acquirements, and that his fine talents and very amiable qualities may be consecrated to the service of the dear Redeemer.

2*nd*, *Fourth-day.* My mind stripped and poor, for some time past, and depressed with a sense of my abounding unprofitableness and many infirmities: if this is but a means of driving me more closely, to the one Source of strength, it will be well. Oh! that I may learn, more and more, to sit as Mary did, at the feet of Jesus; for there, the humble, confiding soul is safe from the assaults of the enemy, and whether the Lord is pleased to be

silent, or to pour in secret, the gracious words of heavenly instruction, she knows that his presence shelters her, and that his banner over her, is love.

4*th*, *Sixth-day.* Set out early with several other friends, to attend our Monthly Meeting at Fordingbridge; we had a pleasant ride through the Forest. The meeting, though small, was, I thought, favoured with a degree of precious quiet, under the sense of which, it seemed right to endeavour to encourage those present, to a diligent seeking after the teaching of the Holy Spirit; that we might, through its powerful operation on the soul, be purified from the corruptions of our fallen nature, built up in the most holy faith, and finally prepared, through the mercy of the Lord, in Christ our Saviour, for an eternal inheritance amongst them which are sanctified.

5*th*, *Seventh-day.* Too late in bed this morning, and so deprived myself of the hour, I like to get before breakfast, for reading or study. Day past in usual occupations, but I fear, in too much languor and listlessness of mind, as to the one important object of pursuit. What energy do we apply to our favourite employments! and yet, alas! how dull and disinclined we often feel, for the most necessary and most valuable of all. "Quicken me, O Lord! according unto thy word."

6*th*, *First-day.* Woke in a peaceful, tranquil state of mind, refreshed with rest and with the renewed sense of the divine goodness, and of those many mercies which are indeed new every morning.

7*th*, *Second-day.* Read a part of the eighteenth psalm in the original, before breakfast. In the afternoon, sat with my dear aunt, who looks very much worn with anxiety and watching. She is a most devoted nurse, and her presence at this solemn period, must be a peculiar comfort to our dear invalid, whose sufferings are now very great. The thread of life is indeed wonderfully spun out, we cannot doubt, for a merciful purpose; and the expressions that occasionally fall from him, indicate a great change in his views, on many subjects.

8*th*, *Third-day.* Called on M. M.'s family. In conversation on the subject of books, I suffered a sentiment to escape me without sufficient consideration, and felt regret afterwards, accompanied

by a desire to be more watchful in future; but alas! what are good desires, without a steady, single dependence on the only effectual helper. We cannot keep ourselves, but may be kept by the one great Shepherd, if we humbly and reverently wait on Him, from hour to hour. Well might David say, "Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not."

The following extract from her sister's diary, alluding to an event, fraught with important consequences to the subject of this Memoir, is here inserted, as an appropriate introduction to her own remarks upon it.

"*Eighth Month* 10*th*, 1826. S. F. arrived soon after breakfast, on an errand deeply interesting to our feelings, that of proposing a union with my beloved sister. My sympathies with my precious M. are in a lively manner awakened, and sincerely do I desire to unite with her, in seeking the counsel and guidance of that wisdom which is profitable to direct, and which alone can lead in safe paths."

11*th*, *Sixth-day*. Awoke this morning, with my feelings a good deal tried, but, I trust, secretly sustained, in a degree of quiet dependence on that gracious Providence, who cares even for the sparrows. If my eye be singly directed to Him, (which is the desire of my heart,) may I not hope, He will be pleased to favour me with his counsel and direction, in an affair of so much importance, involving not only my own comfort and best welfare, but in a great degree, that of my precious sister also, whose happiness, it is my earnest wish to consult and to contribute to, to the utmost of my power. We have been tenderly united from infancy in sisterly affection, and this union has been heightened by similarity of feeling, on the one great subject of first importance, and by the many occasions of deep sorrow through which we have passed together.

13*th*, *First-day*. At meeting, both morning and evening, but in much divestment of good and want of life. In the evening, a

little comforted in the renewed desire, to discover and perform the divine will, and in remembering the words applied to the Messiah, "Then said I, Lo, I come, in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God!" It was as a little ray of light on a prospect of some religious service, which has for a considerable time impressed my mind, of a nature so serious and formidable, that I have not yet ventured to mention it even to my beloved sister. Give me, O Lord! I humbly pray Thee, to discern the right time as well as the right line of moving, and strengthen me to follow Thee faithfully, through every death of self, that may be necessary in preparation, or may attend the accomplishment of what appears to be required; that every sacrifice may be seasoned with the salt of thy eternal covenant of life and light, and may be acceptable to Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

14*th*, *Second-day*. Called on our relatives. My aunt was with her suffering charge, whose detention in this state is remarkable. If there be yet something to be done for himself or others, Oh! that he may be strengthened fully to give up, and to leave his testimony to that divine power, which will convince of sin, and grant the humble, penitent soul, a good hope through the all-availing mediation of the dear Redeemer.

15*th*, *Third-day*. Before breakfast, my German lesson as usual. In the course of it, met with some striking and encouraging remarks, on the duty of unquestioning obedience to the divine will, when once clearly manifested. My mind has been, through this day, mercifully kept in a degree of precious quiet, though I rose from a very disturbed night, somewhat troubled and distressed with the besetments of the enemy, but was favoured to feel renewed confidence in that Arm which can control his power, and deliver those who simply depend upon it, from all his wiles; and now, in the evening, I desire humbly and reverently to commit myself to the divine keeping, to the watchful care of the unslumbering Shepherd.

To E. R.

Southampton, *Eighth Month* 17*th*, 1826.

My dear E. R.,

As my sister's pen has been employed to our dear M., it is not

necessary for me to add; but my heart salutes thee in tender love, and therefore, I am inclined to tell thee so in a few words. . . . . The morning has been devoted to some interesting occupations regarding our afflicted relatives,—committee meeting, &c.; so thou seest, we continue to fill up our time in one way or another. It is, however, much easier to *use up* this invaluable gift, than to use it in the best manner, and in the way most likely to be productive of our own ultimate advantage, in the one important object. That this may be our steady aim, and be ever kept in view, in our exertions for others, is my present desire. I know not why I have written this, but, I believe, merely because in writing to thee, I am accustomed to let the pen run into the thoughts that are uppermost, and having somewhat tired myself this morning, felt a little disposed to moralize on the possibility of being busy, without being well employed. Do not think, however, that I wish to become quite indolent, for indeed, my dear, I am deeply convinced, that those who are desirous of being made useful in the course of this short, earthly pilgrimage, to their fellow-creatures, must not think of sitting down at ease, but be willing to do the little daily duties, which, in many ways, present themselves, even in the most retired allotment; and, thankful we ought to be, if we may be made instrumental, in the least degree, to relieve the temporal or the more important necessities of the afflicted and the degraded. Our little institution, the Refuge, continues to engage our attention, and to present its varieties of depression and encouragement; but, through all, we seem to have abundant cause to press forward, without relaxing the efforts that can be made, to pluck a few from the road of destruction and death; desiring to leave the event with Him, who will not quench the smoking flax, but who is graciously disposed to bless the feeble endeavours of his unworthy children . . . . . .

Believe me very affectionately,

M. M.

Eighth Month 19th, Seventh-day. My mind a good deal tried by a circumstance that appears in itself trivial, but which, I think, might have been much more satisfactory, if I had been properly watchful, to keep the best application of time and money

in view. I feel very desirous of being more careful, not to spend, on my own gratification, though it may appear to be something not very unsuitable, that which might be applied to the relief of my distressed fellow-creatures, or to the promotion of the great cause of religion in the earth. Those who have little, had need be especially careful, that they do not rob themselves of the comfort of doing for others, by any foolish or unnecessary expenditure on themselves. Oh! that I may more and more incline my ear to discipline, and to the holy restraint of best wisdom! I have heard several things that involve me in considerable thoughtfulness, regarding the prospect of religious service, that has of late pressed on my mind. Oh! that I may commit myself, in simple faith, to the divine guidance and disposal, seeking only to know the ordering of Him who can make a way where we see no way, and who is the all in all, of his dependent, confiding ones: He only knows the secret fears and anxieties of our souls, and He only can pour in the oil and wine of heavenly consolation, and afford such supplies of strength, in the needful time, as shall enable us to go forth at his bidding, and, in the end, humbly to acknowledge, "This is our victory, even our faith."

21*st*, *Second-day*. Captain Bromley called, with an introduction from W. Allen, to the friends of the British and Foreign School Society. He is desirous to have a meeting here, to revive the languid cause. It is very discouraging to see so much supineness as prevails here, on subjects of public interest: the great bulk of the population are more disposed to the pursuit of pleasure, and the few who are concerned for the support of our public institutions, have a greater pressure on them than they know how to meet, without more general co-operation.

To E. T.

Southampton, 8*th Month* 21*st*, 1826.

My dear E.

. . . . . What thou sayest, of being in the allotment appointed us by Infinite Wisdom, is indeed very just. I am more and more convinced, that to the well regulated mind, it is everything, and involves as much happiness as is good for us. It is

the secret consciousness of this, that enables the humble christian to enjoy whatever he possesses, whether it be much or little, and without it, though there may be all the external indications, the *soul* of comfort is wanting. Our compassionate Heavenly Father knows precisely what is most adapted to our state,—what is most likely to advance that great work in us, which is the all-important business of life, and as we are seeking to be conformed to his will, to do or to suffer whatever He may be pleased to appoint, He will not only give us daily bread,—such a measure of strength as is adequate to our constant necessity, but, in his abundant mercy, will, at times, give us to drink of those streams of consolation, which flow from his presence. "He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into water-springs, and there He maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation, and sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase." Well, then, my beloved E., let us trust in the mercy and goodness of the universal Shepherd, who will not forsake any of the little ones who depend on Him in simple faith, but will be their guide, their counsellor and their defender, even unto death.

We have had the great pleasure of a visit from our truly kind companion and helper, C. H. It was very pleasant to see him, and to hear of some of those in a distant land, for whom we felt much interested, and to whom we were nearly united. We have indeed, my dear, as thou observest, great cause for thankfulness, in looking back to this journey, in which we have abundant reason to commemorate the merciful kindness of the Lord, who was pleased to make way where we could see no way, and through many trials and conflicts, to renew, from time to time, our dependence and faith in his all-sufficient help; enabling us to acknowledge, amidst our abounding weakness and unprofitableness, that He is all in all, to those who simply put their trust in Him. . . . . .

Thy cordially attached,
MARIA MIDDLETON.

Eighth Month 22*nd*, *Third-day.* Rose, under much depression of mind, and perplexed with many cogitations, beyond

what I can describe. Oh! that I may be enabled to wait, in silent submission, for that inward teacher, which speaks neither in the whirlwind, nor the fire, but in a still, small voice, gently directing the humbled soul, with the clear, but simple monition, "This is the way, walk ye in it." May the Lord give me grace, to understand and obey!

23*rd*, *Fourth-day*. This morning, a note from my cousin, S. H., informed us they had passed a most distressing night, and that it appeared as if the bitterness of death would yet be prolonged. We hastened to them, and were constantly, one of us, by the dear sufferer until the scene closed. The conflict was awfully affecting, but a preciously sustaining and tranquillising feeling was permitted to cover us, and I ventured to kneel at the foot of the bed, and once more, implore, in the name of our adorable and compassionate Redeemer, that the conflict might be mercifully shortened, and the immortal spirit received into that city, none of whose inhabitants can say, "I am sick," but where those who "came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb," eternally surround the throne, with songs of praise. The long-lingering spark dropt gently and quietly out, precisely at three o'clock. After nature had got a little relief from tears, we were enabled silently, to indulge the feeling of humble gratitude, in the consoling belief, that the liberated spirit was received into a blessed rest, through the mercy of our compassionate Saviour, who was, I cannot doubt, graciously pleased to begin, carry forward, and finally, to complete the great work of preparation; and for this, may we be enabled reverently to bless his holy name!

27*th*, *First-day*. After an uneasy, disturbed night, my mind most deeply affected, and my feeling of bodily weakness not to be described. About eight, the mournful band began to move. At the side of the grave, a very solemn stillness was permitted; it lasted a considerable time, when I ventured, in fear, to kneel, in thanksgiving to the great and gracious Disposer of events, who doeth all things well, and, in the midst of chastisement, is pleased to remember mercy; supplication for all present was also offered. My dear sister, afterwards expressed, in a sweet manner, her concern for the company assembled. Many,

not of our Society, were present, and the solemnity and stillness that prevailed, were truly consoling and sustaining. After the remains were lowered into the narrow house appointed for all living, the same precious covering continued. When breakfast was over, the ninety-fifth psalm was read, which was indeed peculiarly suitable to our feelings on this occasion. A solemn pause succeeded, and my dear aunt, on bended knees, poured forth a tribute of thanksgiving and praise.

Ninth Month 1st, Sixth-day. After breakfast, this morning, my dear aunt addressed us in a very affectionate and instructive, parting salutation. When she had concluded, I ventured to offer a short petition for our mutual preservation. The recollection of all we have lately passed through, the chasm made in our circle by the departure of relatives, whose presence, though under circumstances of sorrow, has been a comfort to us, together with various important considerations pressing on my mind, seem almost too much for my frame; but I desire to cast my burdens, of every kind, on One who is able to sustain through all. I feel as if I had been spending some time on the confines of eternity, and have been brought to take such a near and strong view of the solemnities of death, and the vanities of life, that the return to ordinary pursuits and duties, is attended with a very peculiar feeling, and the prospect of what I may yet have to pass through, is awful and almost overwhelming: but why should I take thought for the morrow, seeing we know not what a day may bring forth, nor how soon it may be appointed to us also, to leave the toils and trials of mortality. Oh! for an abiding in Him who is the conqueror of death, who hath deprived the grave of its victory, that so there may be a joyful entrance into that land, where there is no more sorrow, no more temptation.

3rd, First-day. Went to meeting, and were favoured with a degree of solemn feeling, under the influence of which, I felt most easy to endeavour to impress on the minds of my young friends, the importance of being prepared for that great and awful event, which has lately been so strikingly presented to our view, making some allusion to the scene we have witnessed. There seemed a degree of sensibility, in some present. Oh! that it may not pass away, like the early dew.

9*th*, *Seventh-day.* Much occupied, this morning, in calling on the free subscribers of my Bible district, to inform them of the half-yearly meeting of the Association. They pay their subscriptions very willingly; but the general spirit of the place is so much inclined to the gaieties of life, that I fear, many of them regard a meeting of this kind, as an insipid thing.

10*th*, *First-day.* Felt the appointment of one day in seven, for rest and the solemn purpose of worship, a great privilege, after a week that had been filled with a variety of occupations, that seem to have somewhat run down and wearied body and mind. Dined at J. Evans's. After the reading of a chapter in the afternoon, felt my mind drawn to address their young people, and to encourage the parents to renew their trust and confidence in God. In the evening meeting, a few words were expressed on the support enjoyed by the true christian, in the midst of trial and vicissitude; and on the necessity for all to build on the one immutable foundation, Christ Jesus, the Rock of ages.

14*th*, *Fifth-day.* Our Quarterly Meeting at Shaftesbury; not large, and in the early part of it, some minds were, I believe, depressed with the feeling of abounding discouragements; but, after some time, R. Byrd offered a solemn supplication for divine help, and R. Fowler followed, in a very instructive and encouraging manner, strongly enforcing the necessity of individual faithfulness. Some addition was made to her communication, on the power of the divine Arm to work wonderfully for his faithful people, as He did for Israel of old.

16*th*, *Seventh-day.* In the afternoon, some of our friends called on us; my mind not in a state for social enjoyment, being greatly tried, and thoughtful about many things. Felt, in the evening, however, that there is a refuge in the quiet habitation, and that those who retreat into it, in deep humility of soul, shall know, that He who is the keeper of Israel, neither slumbers nor sleeps. Oh! that this may be my blessed experience! that I may dwell in the low valley, seeking only to sit at the feet of the blessed Master, to hear his gracious words.

18*th*, *Second-day.* Set off this morning in the steam-boat, and came to Ryde, where we entered, almost immediately, into lodgings.

19*th, Third-day.* Met with some very instructive and consolatory remarks, in A. Sievekin's "Betraehtungen," whieh prove her to possess a mind deeply imbued with vital piety. Spent a great part of this beautiful morning on the pier, looking on the fine expanse of tranquil sea, and watching the numerous arrivals and departures by the different steam-boats. Mind, on the whole, very calm, and eomforted frequently, during the day, by the reeurrence of the third psalm, whieh arrested my thoughts last First-day evening, when reflecting on some cireumstances that seem likely to produee peeuliar diffieulties and trials. Oh! how the great enemy of the ehureh still works in mystery, and assumes the most speeious and plausible appearanees, if he may hope thereby to interrupt her eoncord, or break her unity: he well knows, her strength is in the unity of the members, with one another and with the holy Head. The true "Jerusalem is builded as a eity that is eompact together, whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel." Be pleased, O Lord! mereifully to regard the low estate of thy people; guard thy feeble flock in the wilderness, from the approaches of every spirit that would introduee itself in sheep's elothing, to do the work of the destroyer.

21*st, Fifth-day.* In the afternoon, a beautiful inland ramble. The walks about Ryde are very inviting, rural and pieturesque; whilst the oeeasional peeps, through the rieh foliage, at the sea, give a majestie finish to the varied landscape seenery. In the evening, my dear sister and I sat quietly together; indeed, we greatly enjoy the temporary retirement and freedom from various claims, that daily draw on our attention at Southampton, leaving us, at times, less settlement than is desirable; but we must be willing to do the duties of life, as they arise, without seeking too mueh our own gratifieations, though they may be, in appearanee, of a profitable kind; that is best for us, that is in the ordering of divine Providenee. However, when we are permitted a little relaxation, it is right to enjoy it with thankfulness, endeavouring to cherish, at the same time, a willingness to return to work, in any way the great Master may be pleased to appoint;—this is not the plaee of our rest.

22*nd, Sixth-day.* A sweet walk, before breakfast, towards the

wood which skirts the sea, to the right; birds singing harmoniously, and all nature beautiful. Read, in the evening, Baron Haller's Letters to his Daughter; a work of great value, comprising, in small compass, a view of the leading truths of the christian religion.

24*th*, *First-day.* Rose this morning in low spirits, but calm. The weather very wet, and we thought it quite unsuitable to pursue our project, of going over to the little meeting at Portsea; but, whilst we were at breakfast, the clouds dispersed, and the rain ceased; we therefore walked to the pier, and stepped into the steam-boat; had a pleasant passage of an hour, and sat down with the little company. The voice of supplication was offered on their behalf, and we were, on the whole, comforted in being with them.

27*th*, *Fourth-day.* This morning, accompanied by S. F., we went to Shanklin; a sweet, sequestered spot, on the south coast of the island, where my sister and I spent a few days, some years ago. It was very interesting to me, again to ramble on the fine sands, under the bold, overhanging cliff, and gaze on the majestic deep, spread in wide expanse before us. In the evening, were favoured with a precious feeling of peaceful quiet, wherein we were, in some degree, enabled to thank God, and to feel a little renewed confidence in the all-sufficiency of his help. May we be kept in a state of humble dependence on his fatherly care and guidance, not anxiously caring for the morrow, but committing our souls to a faithful Creator, who is able to keep what we have committed unto Him, against that great and solemn day, which must speedily overtake us all. Oh! that whenever it shall approach, we may be able to say, with the holy psalmist, "My flesh and my heart faileth, but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever."

28*th*, *Fifth-day.* Tranquil day, though low. The prospect of the approaching Monthly Meeting, at which we must lay before our friends, the view of religious service that has of late engaged our minds, looks formidable, and fills us with some anxious feelings.

29*th*, *Sixth-day.* Left Ryde, and arrived safely at Southampton this evening. The day was very fine, and the passage pleasant.

Tenth Month 1st, First-day. Went to meeting this morning, and sat in a painfully unprofitable state of mind, the greater part of the time, but was at length sensible of an influence that seemed to spread over us. My dear sister knelt and poured forth a solemn prayer, for increased dedication of heart and submission to the divine will, and I thought the feeling that attended it, was like the pouring forth of precious ointment.

2nd, Second-day. Rose this morning, in a tranquil state of mind, which has continued pretty much through the day, though much divested of the sensible perception of divine good. I consider it cause for humble gratitude, that in recurring to the visit lately paid us by S. F., the predominant feeling is, that of quiet reference to the best disposal,—a desire to leave all undue anxiety, and to cast my care on Him who careth for the least of his little ones, and who will not permit them greatly to err, whilst they are sincerely endeavouring, to place their dependence singly upon Him.

3rd, Third-day. R. L. came, to have some conversation respecting the House of Refuge. My sister and I went there together, settled the house accounts and read to the inmates. M. M. discovered great feeling ; we are encouraged and comforted in the state of this young woman. The humility, steadiness and teachableness of her deportment, afford a pleasing hope, that there is a sincere work of penitence, and that, through the influence of divine grace, her heart has become, in degree, changed. In the afternoon, was our little reading meeting. Evening, quietly together.

4th, Fourth-day. May it be the daily prayer of my heart, to be clothed with the spirit of strength and love, that I may be willing to follow cheerfully the guidance of my divine Saviour, and may indeed become one of his faithful children. In the afternoon, had a pleasant, friendly call from James Crabb, who continues his unwearied course of benevolence, for the help of his distressed fellow-creatures ; and is, I fully believe, an instrument of much good here.

5th, Fifth-day. Received some interesting letters from distant friends, fraught with various intelligence, calculated to awaken painful as well as pleasant feelings ; showing, in the experience

of some of our relatives, that the cup of life is indeed a mixed draught, and that those things on which we have built the fairest hopes, often prove sources of agonizing sorrow. Oh! that all who are constrained to acknowledge this, might be driven to the one sure foundation, the immovable Rock.

6*th*, *Sixth-day*. Set off before seven, for our Monthly Meeting at Fordingbridge. The morning very fine, and our minds mercifully preserved in a quiet frame. After some time of silence and deep inward poverty, the language of supplication was raised in my heart, to the Fountain of strength and sufficiency; and some ability was afforded, out of the depths, to look up unto Him, who is a refuge for his people, a refuge in times of trouble, and vocally to implore, that He would be pleased to send a little help from his sanctuary, and to strengthen us out of Zion; to increase our faith and our love, and make us willing to follow Him whithersoever He may lead; that He would strengthen us for every conflict, and give us ultimately to acknowledge, in deep humiliation of soul, that, whilst we are nothing, He remains to be all in all, to those who put their trust in Him. At the conclusion of the meeting for worship, my dear sister and myself were enabled to cast before our friends, in a few words, the prospect we have had for some time past, of visiting the families of Friends in Gracechurch Street Meeting, and in the Monthly Meeting of Longford. After solid deliberation, several friends expressed their concurrence, and a certificate was prepared and signed.

7*th*, *Seventh-day*. Felt this morning, low in mind, but a degree of quiet confidence, in the continued goodness of our unfailing Helper. I was comforted on first waking, in the remembrance, that our sufficiency is of God, so long as we continue humble, watchful and obedient; that He does not send any of his servants on a warfare at their own charges, but as they renounce every dependence, except on his holy arm of power, He will be the shield of their salvation, and will ultimately make them, by the power of living faith, more than conquerors, through Him who hath loved them.

10*th*, *Third-day*. The morning fully occupied at home. In the afternoon, many claims from without, pressed on our attention,

and seemed almost more than could be comfortably got through. Felt weary, and almost ready to wish we were not engaged in some of the institutions, that require more help than is in our power to give. However, I desire to be willing to do the little we can. Oh! that there may be a constant endeavour, to keep close to that which only can preserve from unprofitable activity on the one hand, and listless indolence on the other. A person called on us, who is endeavouring to interest the inhabitants of this place, on account of the Irish Society, an institution formed for the express purpose of circulating the Scriptures amongst the peasantry, in their vernacular tongue; it appears to be a measure, fraught with important consequences for that unhappy country.

12*th*, *Fifth-day.* At a meeting for the Irish Society; it was attended by several zealous friends of the cause. One from Ireland spoke with great energy and effect, on behalf of his depressed and ignorant fellow-countrymen. It was, on the whole, an interesting meeting.

13*th*, *Sixth-day.* In the evening, suffered myself to speak of the failings of an absent friend too freely, which gave me considerable uneasiness on my pillow.

14*th*, *Seventh-day.* In the forenoon, we went to Netley Abbey. The morning very pleasant, and the rich woods just beginning to assume their fine autumnal tints. We had a visit, in the afternoon, from Dr. and E. Lindoe, bringing with them a young woman, who appeared desirous of admission to the House of Refuge. It was most affecting to see her, and hear her tale of wretchedness. She appears under present conviction, from witnessing the awful state of one of her associates, whom she represents as dying in the parish poor-house, under the most fearful agonies of mind. The heart turns, with sickening horror, from the sight of such complete degradation; and feels, that in its natural and unconverted state, it is, indeed, not only "deceitful above all things," but "desperately wicked." Oh! for a capacity to breathe the secret prayer to Him, who only can heal, purify, and pardon, through the blood of the covenant!

15*th*, *First-day.* In the afternoon meeting, I ventured to express a few words to those, who might be constrained to put

on the garment of mourning, and to go sorrowfully on their way, under a depressing sense of desolation without, and poverty within; desiring, they might be enabled to trust in the Lord, and be willing to take their share of whatever labour might be required of them, for the repairing of the breaches.

16*th*, *Second-day.* Soon after breakfast, a note from R. L., to request my sister's company, in a visit to the poor girl in the workhouse. H. went accordingly, and they brought me, at their return, a heart-rending recital of the scene they had witnessed. The poor young creature, who, they say, has a fine, interesting appearance, seems to have entirely lost her reason, under her bodily illness, and the mental agony, caused by strong convictions of her awfully dangerous state. Well might the apostle say, "The sting of death is sin;" for what can equal the horrors of a stricken conscience! The thought of this poor girl's state is almost overwhelming; but we must remember, there is One, who feels infinitely more for poor, miserable sinners, than we can do, and who has all power in heaven and on earth, abounding in mercy, unlimited in love. May He be pleased to speak the word of reconciliation to this poor, distracted soul, and yet pluck it, in the riches of his grace, as a brand from the burning!

17*th*, *Third-day.* M. Lamley called on us, and went with us to the House of Refuge, where we read to the inmates, as usual, and afterwards, the voice of supplication was offered, on behalf of these poor wanderers; there seemed a degree of feeling prevalent in the minds of some of them.

19*th*, *Fifth-day.* My sister went again this morning, to visit the poor young woman in the workhouse; having felt much for her, since seeing her, on the 16th: R. L. kindly accompanied her. They went with but little expectation of being admitted to her ward, having heard, yesterday, that her insanity was become more decided and violent; but, on arriving at the place, they were informed she was now more quiet and passive. My dear sister, after sitting a few minutes by her, was strengthened to offer prayer for her. The poor creature was perfectly calm during the time, and at the close of this solemn act, broke forth into the most touching expressions of thankfulness, and, with earnestness, declared her desire to lead a new life. She appeared quite capable

of comprehending the interest that was felt for her; as well as sensible of her own guilt and misery.

20*th*, *Sixth-day.* Not well, and somewhat depressed in spirits, by the feeling of incapacity to accomplish what I thought necessary to be done; but found a little comfort, in endeavouring to retreat into the quiet habitation. Accompanied our friend E. L. in a ride; the morning fine, and the country beautiful. In the course of our drive, we called at High-Field, and were introduced to Colonel Concily and his wife: they are Neapolitans, who have been driven to seek refuge in this country. The colonel having distinguished himself in the Neapolitan revolution, his estates are confiscated, and they obliged to live in exile. We were interested with them, and they appeared pleased to see some Friends, saying, the first person from whom they received kindness in this country, was of our Society. We spent the remainder of the day with Dr. and E. L. agreeably, and I hope, profitably; however, if we did not profit by the instructive reading and conversation, it must be our own fault.

To S. F.

Southampton, 21*st of Tenth Month*, 1826.

My dear Friend,

. . . . . It does not seem right, wholly to withdraw from these little social duties; though, under the pressure of what is before us, it would often be more congenial to our feelings, to retire into seclusion; indeed, the various important subjects now demanding our attention, seem, at times, almost too much for the mind; yet, we desire to cast our care upon One, who, we have abundant cause humbly to believe, careth for us, and mercifully sustains our minds in a degree of inward quiet; so that, although the future wears, to my view, a pensive aspect, very different from the vivid colouring it assumes in our earliest days, before the hand of sorrow has cast its shading into the picture of life; still, a calm, confiding feeling, at times, reassures my trembling spirit, in the conviction, that under every trial and every vicissitude, there is, for the humble, depending soul, a certain refuge; and that as much of real enjoyment will be permitted, as is seen by Infinite

Wisdom, to be consistent with its own all-merciful designs ; and for this, my soul bows, at seasons, in reverent thankfulness, before that gracious Being, who condescends to lead about and instruct his unworthy children, and can feelingly say,—Choose Thou our inheritance for us. Oh ! that it may be of Him and in Him, and then it will be well. Thou wilt be sure, the work immediately before us does not decrease in awfulness, as it approaches ; but it is a comfort to know, that it is in our weakness, the great Master is pleased to help, with his strength ; therefore, we humbly trust He will not forsake, in the needful time. . . . . .

M. M.

To S. F.

Southampton, *Tenth Month 27th*, 1826.

My dear Friend,

. . . . . We attended our Bible Meeting yesterday, which was, on many accounts, a more than usually interesting occasion. When the committee met on Third-day, they had the mortification to find, that A. Brandram declined coming, principally owing, I believe, to the depression and discouragement of the officers of the parent institution, in its present great and peculiar difficulties. Dr. Wilson and a dissenting minister were deputed to go up to London for him. They set out immediately, and brought him down,—reluctantly, as he penitently confessed on the platform. The friends of the cause rallied nobly and manfully round him ; for the place was never, I think, so crowded with speakers and supporters ; the audience also numerous and very respectable. The feeling that prevailed, was deeply instructive and animating. A. B., who looked very poorly and harassed when he mounted the platform, descended from it, refreshed and comforted at heart, by the sincere and cordial testimonies, yet judiciously expressed, of unaltered attachment to the great cause of the Society. T. M. concluded an excellent speech, by saying, " So long as she (the Bible Society) goes forth, with the bible simply in her hand, and obedience to its precepts in her heart, the Lord of hosts is with her, the God of Jacob is her refuge." J. B. spoke with all his native point and energy ; he was deeply argumentative, forcible

and eloquent, without ostentation, or attempt at superfluous ornament. Some gentlemen declared their intention of doubling their subscriptions, and I believe, a number did so. I must just tell thee of our visit at M. Maurice's, on Second-day. Though we felt in no visiting spirits, we found, unexpectedly, a great treat, in the interesting company of Eustace Carey, a Baptist missionary from Serampore, nephew of the great oriental professor, Dr. Carey. The company was rather large, consisting of serious characters of various denominations, and all were greatly interested in the information of the state of religion, &c., in India. R. Lindoe was there, and took part in the conversation, eliciting many valuable remarks from E. C., who is come over to recruit his exhausted constitution, after ten years' residence in that burning climate. He was the more interesting to us, on account of his being a native of Northamptonshire, and from our knowing some of his connexions. . . . . .

M. M.

28*th*, *Seventh-day.* After breakfast, read the sixty-ninth psalm, and a quiet feeling was permitted to overspread us, which I thought was cause of thankfulness. When all was ready, and we had a few minutes of waiting, for the arrival of the coach, the same precious influence seemed to attend, and the voice of supplication was raised to the great and good Shepherd, for the blessing of preservation. We had a pleasant journey, with agreeable company, and reached Staines in the afternoon.

29*th*, *First-day.* At meeting this morning. After a considerable time of silence, dear C. H. offered up a lively supplication, which seemed to help me to express something that had previously presented, respecting the strength and unity of the true christian church, and the necessity, if we would become members of it, of being willing to come in at the right door, Christ, "the way, and the truth, and the life," of taking up the daily cross, and following Him in the regeneration. We then came to Uxbridge, and were at their afternoon meeting, in which our dear friends were encouraged to increased faithfulness and dedication. A few friends stayed after meeting, to make arrangements for our visiting the families here, and it was concluded for us to take two

sittings this evening, and I think we may humbly acknowledge the extension of that goodness which is ancient and new, in the help renewedly afforded by Him who is the only fountain of help, and who will not forsake his weak, dependent children, in the time of need.

Eleventh Month 3rd, Sixth-day. Quiet, but low, this morning. In the evening, paid the twenty-fifth and last visit to the families in Uxbridge meeting. Though our labour closed under a feeling of deep poverty and emptiness, still there seemed renewed cause to acknowledge the unfailing goodness of our gracious Master, who is pleased to help his feeble servants in the hour of need, giving them to testify, from time to time, of his mercy, his faithfulness and his truth. And now, in the prospect of going through a similar service, in a larger meeting, may we be enabled to cast our care on the Lord alone, and be willing to endure every baptism and suffer every death, that may be necessary to prepare the poor, imperfect vessel, to receive and communicate that which may be designed for the good of others.

4th, Seventh-day. Spent this day, resting with our truly kind friends at Colham Mill; not well, and rather low in spirits, yet endeavouring to trust in that arm of power which is sufficient.

5th, First-day. Our friends, T. and E. S., brought us to Brentford meeting this morning. After some time of silence, my sister was engaged in supplication, which seemed to strengthen me to rise, with a passage of scripture that had before arrested my attention; and it was enlarged on, I trust, in a measure of the renewings of that influence, which only can qualify, rightly to minister to the states of the people.

6th, Second-day. Called at the school. On going into the room, where the children were at their studies, we felt so interested for them, that it seemed scarcely right to go away, without requesting an opportunity with them. Their kind governess readily made way for it, and we had a comfortable time with them. A ride of about two hours brought us into the city. The day was very wet and uncomfortable, and the damp air particularly trying to my chest. I trust, we shall be strengthened to proceed on the awful work before us; but indeed, the prospect of it feels very serious, and great is our poverty and sense of pre-

vailing weakness. Oh, for the increase of faith! What said our blessed Redeemer? "Verily, I say unto you, if ye have faith, as a grain of mustard-seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove, and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Well may we then say, with the disciples, "Lord, increase our faith;" for as it must come from Thee, so Thou alone canst make it grow, and enable us, through its efficacious operation, to overcome all that would oppose itself to thy will.

7*th*, *Third-day*. We were very low, but, I hope, quietly trusting in Him whom we desire to serve. In the evening, before retiring to rest, a feeble prayer was offered for divine help, in our great weakness and poverty.

11*th*, *Seventh-day*. After breakfast, a few words of prayer arose in my heart, which were vocally expressed, and we then went forth to our daily labour. Spirits very low; my dear sister poorly, with a bad head-ache. Oh! that we may seek, more and more, for patience, and look, in humble faith, to Him, who only can qualify for his service, who only can enable us to communicate suitable counsel, or to enter rightly into feeling with those to whom we may be sent; that so, nothing may be strengthened, but what is of the Lord, and nothing discouraged, that is ever so feebly breathing after Him.

12*th*, *First-day*. Went to Gracechurch Street meeting. It was large, and I sat, for a long time, under much feeling, but was fearful of being in the way of others, or of moving before the right time. At length, however, I stood up, with the proclamation of Joshua, to the assembled host of Israel, "Behold the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth, passeth over before you into Jordan;" and was led to enlarge, a little, on the subsequent command to the people, to arise and go after it, and on the wonders the Lord wrought for his people, in bringing them into the promised land. W. Allen followed, on the efficacy of faith, in a lively and encouraging manner, and my sister was enabled, on bended knee, to offer the tribute of praise, and to petition for the renewed help of the great Shepherd.

13*th*, *Second-day*. At the "Morning Meeting," where we met many friends. It was particularly interesting to us, to see

dear Isaac Hammer, on his return from Germany and Switzerland. He gave, in the most simple manner, a very satisfactory account of his visit in those countries, furnishing renewed evidence, that we serve a very gracious Master, and concluded with the humble acknowledgment, that there never was any period of his life, when he more felt the force of our Lord's injunction, "When ye shall have done all these things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants."

15*th*, *Fourth-day*. The Monthly Meeting at Staines. The meeting for worship not large, but quiet, and, I trust, we may thankfully acknowledge, favoured with the overshadowing wing of ancient goodness, under which, a degree of capacity was renewedly afforded, to minister to some states present. My dear sister addressed the young, in a sweetly encouraging manner, and when she concluded, I ventured to stand up, with the words of the first commandment, and had to enlarge on the nature of divine love,—love to God, from which flows love to mankind, as the essence of vital religion. At the close of the women's meeting for business, a short supplication arose in my heart, and was vocally offered, on behalf of the young people present. We separated, I trust, under a solemn covering. Went to Dr. Pope's to dine, where we met an interesting company. After the cloth was drawn, a precious stillness gradually overspread us; when it seemed best to express something of the concern I felt for some present, who had been brought into great affliction, and who were, I believed, peculiarly designed to come forth, more unreservedly in the Lord's service; to encourage these to be faithful, and to endeavour patiently to endure every necessary baptism. My sister was afterwards engaged in supplication, and we parted under the renewed feeling of that love which is ancient and new.

20*th*, *Second-day*. This work of individual and family visits, is very reducing to the natural mind, teaching us, that our dependence is only on the one Source of holy help. May we be willing to dwell deep, and so, know a capacity to enter rightly into the states of the people, but "who is sufficient for these things." None, truly, but through that grace which can do all things.

21*st*, *Third-day*. Rose this morning, low and stripped in mind, and seemingly destitute of good, having also many fears

about the awful work in which we are engaged. A young man, who had fixed to be here, was late, and when he did arrive, seemed to be one of those who had wandered far from the path of safety. We had several such visits this morning, but the gospel call was wonderfully sounded to them, and the voice of supplication offered on their behalf; that they might be rescued from the snares of the enemy, through the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of men, who led captivity captive, and triumphed over death, hell and the grave. Oh! how great is his love and mercy to poor rebellious man! how does He plead and strive with him, and call again and again to his wandering creatures, with a language like that of the prophet formerly, "Turn ye, turn ye, from your evil ways, for why will ye die, O! house of Israel?"

23*rd*, *Fifth-day*. Much cause for humble, reverent gratitude, amidst these arduous labours, wherein our faith is often closely proved. May we find it renewed and confirmed, by the repeated extension of the divine goodness and mercy!

25*th*, *Seventh-day*. A very low day; wherein there seemed a burden to bear, something like that of being baptized for the dead. Oh! that we may seek for patience, to endure every conflict that may be necessary for our complete reduction. Visited some, who seem entrenched in the pride of philosophy and the wisdom of this world; but we have reason thankfully to acknowledge the extension of that power, which, when it pleases the Lord to choose the weak things, can make them bold for his cause and name.

26*th*, *First-day*. Went to Gracechurch Street meeting, where were some other strangers. After a considerable time of silence, the covering of supplication was permitted to overspread us, and I ventured to bend the knee, and implore the divine mercy for different states present, especially for those who are wandering from the fold, that, through submission to the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ, who "was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil," these may be delivered from the jaws of the devourer, by that holy arm, which, of old, cut Rahab in pieces and wounded the dragon. Several lively communications followed, and the meeting ended, under a solemn feeling. Low in

the evening, and somewhat spent, but before retiring, felt a little renewal of faith and confidence in the divine power.

28*th*, *Third-day.* G. B. kindly conveyed us to Tottenham, to call on the widow of our valued friend, E. J. She met us with a settled composure that bespoke the prevalence of christian resignation, amidst the feeling of indescribable sorrow. After we had, for a short time, mingled our tears, a most precious covering overspread us, in which there seemed only room for the language of praise and thanksgiving. It was indeed a solemn time, affording renewed evidence, that "the foundation of God standeth sure," and that it will bear up, in holy stability and quiet, those who are built upon it, through all the sufferings and conflicts of time.

29*th*, *Fourth-day.* The meeting at Gracechurch Street, a quiet, comfortable time; silent till near the close, when H. B. expressed a few words, and my dear sister was engaged in supplication. I sat under considerable feeling, but did not see any way rightly to express it, and it seemed best, when the meeting broke up, to propose to meet the committee, who had been engaged in planning the visits, requesting also the company of those in the station of overseer. They were accordingly convened after the meeting of Ministers and Elders, and the friends belonging to this meeting joined us. The company was chiefly composed of a considerable number of young and middle-aged men'; and the call was remarkably extended to them, to come forward to the support of the Lord's cause, and to the help of those, who have long borne the burden and heat of the day. Great, indeed, is the weight that devolves on these, in this meeting; but there are many among the younger class, who are, I fully believe, under the preparing hand, and who will, if they are willing to surrender themselves fully, be made vessels of honour and of use in the Lord's house. It was a time of precious, uniting feeling, and dear W. A. offered a lively prayer, at the conclusion, for the feeble messengers, and for those who had been visited. In the winding up of this very arduous engagement, there is renewed cause, in deep humiliation and abasedness of soul, to pour forth the tribute of thanksgiving, to the great Author of all our spiritual and temporal mercies, and to bless his great and ever excellent

name, who, though He still sends forth his servants without purse or scrip, enables them, as they look to Him, to acknowledge in the end, that they have lacked nothing. We have received great kindness from the dear friends amongst whom our lot has been cast, and everything seems to have been done in their power to facilitate the work.

Twelfth Month 1*st*, *Sixth-day.* Set off this morning, had an agreeable journey, with pleasant company, and reached home in the afternoon. It is truly comfortable to be permitted again to reach our own quiet habitation.

3*rd*, *First-day.* Rose this morning, somewhat low in mind, and still poorly from cold, so that I was ready to give up going to meeting, but concluded to set out with my sister. At the close of it, our Preparative Meeting, where was read a lively epistle from Friends in Philadelphia, affording evidence that amidst all the overturnings in that land, "the foundation of God standeth sure," and that those who are happily established upon it, are enabled still to bring forth fruit to his praise. This afternoon, the desire of my mind is, as at many other times, to commit our all into the keeping of a faithful Creator, who has hitherto graciously cared for us. We cannot be safe, for a moment, out of his keeping, and in it, nothing can harm us, because all the trials and sorrows of life are so many links in the chain of a merciful Providence, that designs to bind us, more and more closely, to the source and centre of true happiness. In reviewing the Lord's goodness and condescension to us, his feeble servants, during the late journey, my soul is, at times, bowed in reverent thankfulness, and acknowledges that great is the divine faithfulness. In prospect, it was very serious, and the trial increased to me, by an apprehension, that, in the eyes of some, there might seem a degree of forwardness in *my* making the application for a certificate; but as my dear sister did not apprehend it laid on her to do this, I could not do otherwise. The same trial was permitted in our going to the continent, and I am, at times, ready to inquire, why it should be so. But we, short-sighted beings, can see little of the operations of the divine hand, and know not how soon He may see meet to cut short the work and close the service of any; so that to work while it is day, seems

only ours, leaving the future to Him who knows the end from the beginning, and who is worthy to be served, honoured and obeyed, by the whole house of Israel. Those who are called to the work of the ministry, have many conflicts to endure, many deaths to die, not only for the reduction of that within themselves which is opposed to the cross of Christ, but also to qualify them for entering more deeply into sympathy with the variety of experience in others. And besides this, they are called to suffer, in their different degrees of capacity, for the "body's sake, which is the church," to be "baptized for the dead," and to realize something of the apostle's experience, when he said, "I die daily;" still, if they are, at times, enabled to lay hold of the consoling hope, that their life is hid with Him who is their all, they can rejoice in the midst of tribulation, and say, with humble confidence, "I know that my Redeemer liveth." Seeing, however, that we can only live by one faith, that we all desire to serve the same Lord, and must all be baptized with a measure of the same baptism, surely, we ought tenderly to sympathize one with another, and peculiarly to exercise towards each other, that holy charity, which believeth all things and hopeth all things.

7*th*, *Fifth-day.* Our Quarterly Meeting. Several of the ministers present were engaged both in testimony and supplication, particularly dear W. F., in a long and awakening call to the worldly-minded, attended with a great degree of power. It was a searching time, and such an one, as must, I would hope, be profitably remembered by many. I ventured, at the end, to offer on the bended knee, the tribute of thanksgiving and praise to Him, who never forsakes his dependent children, in any of the conflicts through which He may be pleased to lead them; commemorating his goodness, faithfulness and truth, in humble confidence, that He will be with his devoted servants to the end.

13*th*, *Fourth-day.* In the afternoon, my spirits greatly depressed, and poorly in health. In contemplating the very serious prospect before me, my heart is, at times, ready to sink within me, under the pressure of my own weakness every way. The idea of entering afresh into life, into new scenes, new duties, and new responsibilities, seems almost more than I can bear to anticipate; having to struggle with much bodily debility, and

often with mental suffering, fully known only to Him who sees in secret; but, at times, my mind is, through unutterable mercy and goodness, permitted to anchor, as in the deep waters, on that rock which is the only sure refuge. Oh! that I may seek to be more and more firmly established on this, and then, none of the vicissitudes of time can greatly move me.

15*th*, *Sixth-day*. Stayed within all day, my cold being still bad. In the evening, J. Crabb paid us a visit, and talked of his plans for the building of a county penitentiary. After supper, a little time of reading and retirement together, wherein we were favoured with a precious feeling of that presence, which can sustain through all the changes of dispensation, and at seasons enable the drooping mind, to rejoice in the midst of suffering.

16*th*, *Seventh-day*. Quite an invalid, with considerable fever and inflammatory tendency in my chest, and suffering at times great pain, but I desire to look, in simple trust, to Him who fully knows what is best for us, and who tenderly compassionates the weakness and infirmities of his children, designing, in all their afflictions, ultimately to promote their highest happiness. S. F. left us to-day. Just before he set off, we were enabled renewedly to commemorate the divine faithfulness, and to express a desire for an increase of faith and patience, under every trial that may be permitted.

22*nd*, *Sixth-day*. Prevented by illness from writing since the 18th. During part of this time, I have suffered much severe pain, and found it difficult to attain that state of patience and complete acquiescence, which is our duty under every affliction. My mind much divested of the sensible enjoyment of good, and my bodily frame so weak, that it seems difficult at times to *think*; still, I feel abundant cause to acknowledge the mercy and goodness that permits me so many alleviations, in the possession of every outward comfort, and the tender attention and sympathy of my beloved sister and other dear friends.

To S. F.

Southampton, *Twelfth Month* 30*th*, 1826.

. . . . . Thou seest, my dear friend, the hand of chastening has been upon us; may we be enabled, in all its ministrations, to

trace that mercy and goodness which are mingled in the corrections of our compassionate Father, who designs, in all things, to instruct us, to teach us our own nothingness, our own unworthiness, our entire dependence on his providential care. I sometimes recur, with a degree of comfort, to the little renewal of faith and confidence permitted just before we parted, when, under the feeling of approaching trial, which, for some time before, I apprehended was not very distant, there seemed a degree of capacity to look, as out of the depths, towards the holy temple. Still, when under the immediate pressure of bodily suffering, faith and patience were not easy to obtain, and nothing but the sense of abounding infirmities was often present to the mind; yet, I would humbly hope, that He who perfectly knows our frame, and remembers that we are dust, accepts the desire of the soul after his sustaining presence, and will, in his own time, bind up that which He sees meet to bruise. Oh! how much we require to humble us, and bring us entirely to the foot of the cross. That we may but be willing, there to bow, and there to remain, is the present desire of my heart. I am afraid, I am writing rather a gloomy letter, when I intended to cheer thee; however, we may be, and ought to be, cheered, and filled with gratitude and thankfulness. . . . . .

M. M.

Twelfth Month 31st, First-day. Since the last memorandum was made, I have been very ill, and suffered extreme pain, from great enlargement and inflammation of the gums and throat; so as to make the swallowing, even of liquids, extremely difficult. Restless nights and wearisome days seemed to be appointed me, and faith and patience at a very low ebb; but, through all, I humbly trust, the arm of divine support was not withdrawn, and a degree of ability, at times, mercifully afforded, to lay hold on the anchor that is sure and stedfast; yet, at other moments, the enemy was ready to pour in a flood of doubt and discouragement, tempting me to many unprofitable reasonings and fears. Oh! for increased capacity to rebuke him, in the renewed power of living, victorious faith,—in the spirit of the Lord Jesus, who has assured us, that "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." Then, whether it be a word of sorrow or of joy, of suffering or

rejoicing, if it be converted, by this operative faith, into substantial food, surely it is enough, and cause for humble, reverent gratitude, for deep prostration of soul before the footstool of Him, who is rich in mercy to all that call upon Him; who openeth his hand, and satisfieth the desire of every living thing. The desire of the living, is life,—life eternal; and if this inward, invisible life, be but nourished and supplied, even though it be by means incomprehensible to our natural reason, and contrary to our natural will, are we not receiving the end of our faith? because faith covenants for that which is spiritual, and regards the sufferings of the present time, as "not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." In looking back, now at the close of the year, to the many and important events which have marked its progress,—to what has been done and felt, enjoyed and suffered,—to the many merciful preservations and leading providences that have been vouchsafed to me, a poor, weak, unworthy creature, surely I may set up an Ebenezer, and say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped me." And oh! in looking to a new and coming year, which, if life be permitted, seems likely to bring with it most important changes, may the prayer of my heart be continually and fervently to the Lord, that He would keep us in all our goings out and comings in, that He would be with us and bless us, and permit us to take shelter under his almighty wing; that He would enable us to love, serve, and honour Him above all; make us willing, patiently to suffer for his sake; guard us on every hand, and keep us from evil, all the days of our appointed time on earth, and bring us, finally, through the blood of the covenant, the blood of sprinkling, "to the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven;" where all the multitude of his redeemed, eternally ascribe their salvation to our God, which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. Amen!

CHAPTER VI.

1827. Continued illness—Prospect of religious service—Recovery—Presentation of marriage—Visit to Alton Monthly Meeting—Quarterly Meeting—Memoranda—Marriage.

1827. *First Month 2nd, Third day.* This day seems to have passed, as mine too often do, with little that is instructive, to mark its flight; or rather, to have left few traces upon a mind too unapt to receive and gather that instruction, which, no doubt, would be every day afforded to the humble, seeking soul. "Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge," said David, but this is only to eyes that are divinely anointed to see, and to ears that are opened to hear, the voice of creation and providence, which speaks, in gentle but intelligible accents, of the mysteries of heavenly love, and would cause, if we were duly attentive to it, the meditations of the heart to be of understanding.

6th, Seventh-day. Employed a part of the day, in looking over and arranging a quantity of letters and family papers; a work, necessarily reviving many feelings of a very mingled nature, and recalling, in a vivid manner, the remembrance of days gone by,—of many deep sorrows and bereavements, in the loss of those who were dearest to us on earth, but whose virtues embalm their memory, and have left a sweet fragrance behind them; enabling their children, at times, to rejoice in the consoling assurance, that they have, through adorable mercy, received the eternal crown laid up for the righteous, rather than to mourn their departure from this scene of mixture and vicissitude. Oh! that we may seek to follow their bright example, and be one day re-united, where separation is no more.

7th, First-day. Still an absentee from meeting. My mind poor and stripped, and thoughts wandering after many things, instead of being fixed on the one great Object of worship. Oh! when shall I attain a settlement in that spirit and disposition of mind, which is continual prayer! Read, to-day, Dr. Morrison's

beautiful discourse, entitled "The Kindredship of the Nations," wherein he sets forth, in a lively and forcible manner, the obligations those are under, who profess the gospel of Christ, to extend their views beyond the limits of their own nation or government, and to embrace the whole human family, in the circle of benevolence and love.

To S. F.

Southampton, *First Month 9th*, 1827.

. . . . . He who has promised to bring the blind by a way that they knew not, to make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight, has, I think, added, "These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them." Oh! what a promise is this! Shall it not humble all within us, in reverent thankfulness? . . . . . I wish I were more capable of true prayer for myself and my dear friends; but one thing we are assured of, that the eternal covenant is with the night as well as with the day; oh, then! that we may hold it fast, in the hour of trial and darkness, remembering that to us, it is given, not only to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, but also to suffer for his sake. We must not expect to be always employed, but often to be laid by as useless, to feel our own emptiness and nothingness, because in this way, the great Master is pleased to deal with the vessels, He graciously condescends to fill, at times, with heavenly treasure. I have thought, this morning, of Moses, who was long in the desert, in the obscure character of shepherd, before he was sent forth on the mission to which heaven had appointed him; and a greater than Moses, was forty days in the wilderness, tempted of the devil. Why should I write thus to thee, my dear friend, who art so well acquainted with the way, but it is one of the privileges and duties of christian friendship, to commune at times of these things, and, as our poet beautifully expresses it,

"Gird up each other to the race divine."

M. M.

First Month 10th, Fourth-day. My sister gone to meeting. I am still much a prisoner, and I fear, in this long

absence from the assemblies of my friends, not sufficiently careful to seek to the holy anointing, which would keep the lamp constantly burning, in the inner temple of the heart. Yet, in the midst of great weakness and poverty, I feel, at this time, some renewal of faith in the goodness of Israel's Shepherd, and of desire to commit myself fully to his disposal in all things.

12*th*, *Sixth-day*. On my waking, this morning, I was led to reflect on the conduct of divine Providence, in regard to the affairs of men, and was again shown the necessity of a simple trust and cheerful obedience, of a willingness to follow every leading as it may be offered, step by step, without being anxious to look forward. It seemed to me, that if our gracious and wise Director and Preserver was pleased to open to us one page of his book, we had only to read, and endeavour to fulfil what was there written for our instruction or guidance; and that we should not desire to turn the leaf over, until it should please our Heavenly Father, further to unfold his plan and designs concerning us. Afterwards, received a letter, which induced me to believe I should be required to perform an act of faith, by taking one step towards an important movement, without much sight about the next.

14*th*, *First-day*. Passed a distressing night, from violent pain; and during our hours of watchfulness, my dear sister and myself were brought into a close examination of ourselves, and an inquiry was raised in our minds, what might be the voice of the rod, with a desire to be made willing to follow any pointing of duty that might be clearly discerned. It was the apprehension of both, that a secret attraction, we have at times felt, to some parts of Alton Monthly Meeting, may probably lead us, before long, to visit our friends in that district. Oh, for simple faith!

21*st*, *First-day*. I open my book, and see that a week has elapsed since I wrote anything in it. During that week, much bodily suffering has been allotted me, so that nature, under the pressure of severe pain, has been, at times, ready to give out, spent with the effort to keep quiet under it. It has been to me a time of deep distress,—painful nights and languid days, and the better part in a state of great poverty and destitution; so that, in some moments, I have been ready to conclude myself left as a prey to the enemy; yet, blessed be the Lord, I have a

consoling hope, that He will not utterly leave, or cast off his unworthy, unprofitable servant, but will, in his own good time, rebuke the tempter, and bring my soul out of prison, giving a degree of renewed capacity to praise his name, because He is merciful and compassionate, and afflicts not willingly his children, but designs, in all things, to instruct them and to make them more and more fruitful to Himself, if they are subject, patient and teachable. How difficult this lesson of holy patience! What severe discipline we require before it is operated in us! Grant me, O Lord! I beseech Thee, an increase of this heavenly grace; conform me to thy holy will, that all may be laid at the foot of the cross, and that Thou mayst be the all in all of my subjected soul. Suffer me not to murmur at the means Thou mayst be pleased to employ, but may I, with filial submission, kiss the rod!

Second Month 11th, First-day. This day three weeks, the last memorandum was made; and on now reading it over, and reflecting on what has passed in the intermediate time, I know not where or how to begin the record of my thoughts and feelings. For some days, my illness continued increasing, and the night of the 24th of last month, was one of intense and indescribable suffering, attended with such great prostration of strength, as discouraged our medical friends; and our truly kind and sympathizing neighbour R. L., thought it necessary to apprize S. F. of our state, who set off a few hours after he received the letter. By the time he reached us, I was, through the merciful kindness of our compassionate Father, something better, and found it a comfort and support to have his company. It was also a great relief to my dear sister, who was much worn down with fatigue, and the trial of undivided anxiety. On Sixth-day, the 2nd inst., was our Monthly Meeting at this place, when my sister laid before Friends, her prospect of visiting Alton Monthly Meeting. A few lines from myself expressed the unity I felt with her, and our friends, after considering the subject, set us at liberty to pay this little debt of love, when the way may appear rightly to open, and ability be afforded. S. F. remained with us till the 6th: during his stay, I was favoured to make gradual, though slow progress, towards recovery, and on endeavouring to enter with him into the consideration of our future prospects, I did not feel easy towithhold my consent

to his taking the first public step towards the accomplishment of our union, at his next Monthly Meeting. My mind has, indeed, under the feeling of great bodily weakness, been often much discouraged, in looking forward to a new and enlarged sphere of relative and social duties, apprehending I shall be found very incompetent to the due performance of them; yet, I can thankfully acknowledge, that during our late interview, we were permitted to feel the prevalence of that preciously calming influence, which seemed to stay our minds in the humble hope, that our proceeding in this important affair, is in the disposal of best wisdom; and at seasons, through unutterable, adorable mercy, we were favoured, unitedly, to approach the spring of living water, and to partake of its consoling, invigorating stream; so that I dare not question the leadings of a gracious Providence, though my heart tenderly sympathizes with my dear friend, in the prospect of entering upon this new and interesting relation with a companion, who is likely to make large claims on his care and solicitude.

14*th*, *Fourth-day.* My heart is made thankful this morning, in feeling something of that calming influence, which, as it is sought after and dwelt under, enables us, poor unworthy creatures, to receive our daily portion from the divine hand, and to trust for the morrow, to the same providential care. "If God so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O! ye of little faith?" In the evening, some friends came to tea: before they left us, we were favoured with the prevalence of that uniting feeling which binds together those who love the Lord Jesus Christ, and under this precious covering, we were enabled thankfully to commemorate the Lord's mercies.

15*th*, *Fifth-day.* S. Pumphrey left us in manuscript, the account of one of his sons who died at the age of eleven, and the diary of another who was also removed in early life. They exhibit the effects of religion on the youthful mind, and afford an encouraging proof, that the endeavour, early to implant right principles in the minds of children, is often followed by a blessing in the progress of life. When we contemplate the early removal of those, who have been induced to seek, in the dawn of life, an establishment in the unchangeable truth, we ought, surely, to rejoice on

their account, because we know not, if they had been continued here, how much the influence of the world and the power of temptation, might have drawn them from a safe course.

16*th*, *Sixth-day*. Still a prisoner in the house, but through favour, progressing as to health. I fear my time, though fully occupied with a variety of employments, is not improved as it might be, to the highest purposes. Alas! how apt is the mind to be filled with trifling cares, to the exclusion of those which are of the greatest importance, but it is a favour to feel, from time to time, the renewal of desire after that which proceeds from the Source of all good, seeing we cannot, of ourselves, command such desires; though they will do little for us, without a steady application of the soul to Him from whom cometh every spiritual and temporal gift.

TO HER SISTER.

Bring me choicest flowers of spring,
All that summer's sun discloses,—
Violet and woodbine bring,
And all rich and fragrant roses;
No! delightful though they be,
These are not a wreath for thee.

Round the laughing brow of mirth,
Let them gayest garlands twine;
Meed of more enduring worth
Must reward such love as thine;
Ever in my inmost breast
Treasured deep, but ne'er exprest.

Love, that shed its genial ray
Round my head in earliest youth,
And, through life's eventful day
Shines with constancy and truth:
Health and sickness, joy and care,
Have but made its light more clear.

Like twin-blossoms on one stem,
We have grown through sun and showers,
But the storm that withers them,
Only strengthens love like ours;
Surely, 'tis a bond, that never,
Time, nor life, nor death shall sever

18*th*, *First-day.* A few lines, this morning, very unexpectedly, from dear J. W., an interesting, religiously disposed young woman we became acquainted with, during our stay in Hamburgh. It marks a lively desire after the highest good, as well as the continuance of her affectionate regard. In the afternoon, read a passage in the first chapter of Lamentations, "For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should relieve my soul, is far from me." This expression, with some others in the chapter, seem very descriptive of the state my mind has been permitted to experience, during a part of my late illness, when I was ready, in effect, to exclaim in the bitterness of my soul, "From above hath He sent a fire into my bones, and it prevaileth against them;" but through unutterable mercy, there has been, in some measure, a capacity to acknowledge, "Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart," because "the words of the Lord are pure words, as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times;" and though the administration of his discipline may not be such as nature desires, or, unassisted by divine grace, can patiently endure, still, it is by this that man must live, and the soul that has been happily touched with a ray of divine love and light, feels that the merciful corrections of its Heavenly Father and Friend, are more to be desired than all the treasures of this corrupt world. Happy is the man whom the Lord correcteth, if he humble himself under the holy hand, and seek, in all things, to know what is the mind of the Spirit.

21*st*, *Fourth-day.* A most kind letter to-day, from our friend W. F. It discovers the tender interest he takes in all that concerns his friends, and is a fresh call for deep, heart-felt gratitude to the all-bountiful Giver of every good, who has provided us with such a faithful counsellor, at a time when we particularly feel the loss of those who were everything to us, that parental love could suggest, or inexperience require.

To S. F.

Southampton, *Second Month* 23*rd*, 1827.

. . . . . It is a great favour my strength is so much returned as it is, one for which I desire, with thee, we may cherish

humble thankfulness to the great Author of all our blessings; but I fear my mind is far from that constant sense of lively gratitude that ought to be sought after, though I would hope, endeavouring at times to number the unmerited mercies that are indeed new every morning. Pray for me, my dear friend, when thou art favoured to approach the sacred footstool, that none of the corrections of our compassionate Father may fail of their gracious purpose, but may accomplish the end for which they are administered, that returning health may find me more humble, more devoted, more watchful, and simply dependent on providential care and guidance. There is a beautiful hymn in the Olney collection, beginning "Quiet, Lord, my froward heart," that has often occurred to my mind of late. How much I desire to live in the spirit of it! . . . . . .

M. M.

Second Month 25th, First-day. Went to meeting, for the first time, after an absence of more than ten weeks. A covering of precious quiet was permitted to some of our spirits, under which, I ventured to offer the language of thanksgiving, and to petition, that all the gracious purposes of our merciful Creator respecting us, might be accomplished. My dear sister was, afterwards, led instructively to enforce the necessity of living faith in the dear Son of God, and of diligent application to the throne of grace.

27th, Third-day. My spirits have been, all day, somewhat depressed, the state of my health producing a good deal of discouragement. Alas! how ungrateful is the human heart! how much more disposed to dwell on little circumstances, that are, in any degree, contrary to its wishes, than to number, with thankfulness and humility, the great, the innumerable blessings of which it is the daily and hourly receiver. Surely, I have abundant cause to bless the great name of Him, who hath done wonderfully for me, hath sustained me through many deep conflicts, and sent down showers of blessings on his unworthy child. Why then, art thou cast down, O my soul! and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God, who is able to deliver to the very uttermost; He will not reject the feeble cry of the truly dependent soul, but will surely hear its

prayer. Does he not feed the young ravens, and clothe the very grass of the field? Will He not then supply all the need of his children, though He may suffer them to hunger in the wilderness, in order to humble them and to prove them, to know what is in their heart; yet are his purposes very gracious, and if they rebel not against his guidance, He will finally bring them to his spiritual Canaan,—during their journey through the wilderness, will feed them with manna, and give them water from the rock of flint; teaching them, that they are not to "live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Gird thyself then anew, O my soul! to this, thy heavenward journey; faint not by reason of the dangers or difficulties of the way, but run, with patience, the race that is set before thee, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of his people's faith; thou knowest not when the warfare may be accomplished,—thou knowest not whether thy travel may be long or short; therefore, press forward, with holy diligence, with humble confidence, thankful for thy daily bread, whatever it be, and trusting in the good providence of Jehovah for the morrow. If the Lord be on our side, we need not fear; his power is greater than all the power of the enemy, and his mercy endureth for ever. Be pleased, most gracious Father! to renew my faith in thy all-sufficient arm; make me patient, meek and humble; waiting on Thee for daily supplies of spiritual strength, and trusting in thy rich, thy inexhaustible mercy, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Third Month 1st, Fifth-day. Rose, this morning, under a depressing feeling of bodily weakness; set off in the forenoon, with S. F., my sister and cousin, for our Monthly Meeting at Fordingbridge. Just before our departure, sitting quietly together, waiting for the carriage, we were favoured with a sense of heavenly good, which seemed to strengthen us in a moment of some discouragement.

2nd, Sixth-day. Attended our Monthly Meeting: in the first part, my mind was permitted to feel the preciously calming influence of that peace which the world cannot give, wherein I was led silently to adore the goodness and mercy of God. When the meetings for business were opened, my friend and myself were enabled satisfactorily to go through the formidable, public

announcement of our intentions. I consider it cause for deep, humble thankfulness, that our minds were covered, throughout the day, with such a sustaining quiet, as seemed like an evidence of divine approval, and may, I trust, be recurred to, in future times of trial.

To S. F.

Southampton, *Third Month* 11*th*, 1827.

. . . . . I trust it is with a degree of humble thankfulness I may say, that in the multitude of my thoughts within me, there is generally prevalent in my mind, a calm, confiding feeling, that stays me in something like quiet dependence on the leadings of an all-wise Providence, whose hand is full of blessings, and that enables me to believe, that if it please Him whom we desire to follow, to unite us in the most tender relation, He will bestow upon us, as we seek to walk in humility, much real happiness, mingled with such a portion of trial or affliction, as shall be necessary to the accomplishment of his all-merciful purposes concerning us. This we must expect, and, at times, in large measure; nor ought we to wish it otherwise; seeing it is part of the covenant between the great Master and his faithful disciples. It is not the lot of man to gather the rose without the thorn, whilst he sojourns below; *that* is reserved for an unclouded region, where love, and peace, and joy, are not mixed with error, nor endangered by temptation, nor shaded by disappointment. Life is full of vicissitudes; light and shadows, sun and showers, with occasional storms, make up the fleeting day of human existence, and the christian, whilst he shares these alternations, in common with others, has also his own peculiar portion of trials; but then, under all, he has a peace with which the world cannot intermeddle, and how glorious are his prospects in that future state of being, where this union with his Lord and Saviour shall be made perfect and permanent! Well may he, in the contemplation of his present comforts and future hopes, be brought, in deep prostration of soul, to the acknowledgment of pious Jacob, "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth, which Thou hast showed unto thy servant." We know not, my dear friend, what shall befal us here, but we know the faithfulness of Him who hath called us, and who, I humbly believe, has united our

hearts in that which is independent of the vicissitudes of time. Oh ! that it may be our daily concern, by continued watchfulness unto prayer, to abide in Him, that so we may strengthen each other in every good word and work. . . . . .

M. M.

Third Month 17*th*, *Seventh-day.* Rose early, and prepared for our journey, but under very trying feelings; my dear H. being so poorly, that it seemed quite unsuitable for her to venture. Were conveyed safely to Alton ; J. Barclay kindly met us at the inn. Truly comfortable it is to us, to be under his roof.

18*th*, *First-day.* Went to meeting, where, after a considerable time of silence, we both expressed something, and at the close, our minute was read. After it, J. B. expressed his wish to accompany us, if his friends saw no objection, into the families of his own meeting.

20*th*, *Third-day.* We go from house to house, under feelings of great poverty and weakness, having, as it were, the sentence of death in ourselves, yet have cause to acknowledge, from time to time, the extension of best help.

25*th*, *First-day.* Attended the small meeting at Basingstoke, a very low time. My dear sister was at length enabled to minister, and I ventured to offer what arose, feeling sympathy with some humble, diffident minds present, who, we were ready to think, were under much discouragement. Afterwards, visited a poor friend and two children ; she seemed in great trouble, from various causes, and was encouraged to cast her burden on the one great Deliverer, whose tender mercies are over all his works.

26*th*, *Second-day.* Arrived at our own door, about four in the afternoon. Felt thankful, in being permitted to return to our quiet, comfortable habitation.

30*th*, *Sixth-day.* This day is my birth-day, and exactly a year since we set out for London, on our way to Holland and Germany. What a variety of circumstances and interests have filled the intermediate time ! how many lessons of deep instruction ought I to have learned ! and how should my heart be humbled, in remembrance of the countless instances of divine

care and compassion that have marked this period, to one so unworthy! I desire greatly that the favours and privileges so bountifully showered upon me, may have the effect of producing not only deep humility and lively gratitude, but may also expand my heart in acts of love and benevolence towards my fellow-creatures; that I may constantly bear in mind the words of our blessed Lord, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me," and be stimulated to seek out and relieve the distresses of his afflicted members on earth. When I look at the many comforts with which I am surrounded, I feel a fear lest I should be appropriating to my own use, anything that ought to be applied to the pressing wants of others. May I ever watch over myself in this respect, and not be induced to expend, on unnecessary accommodations, that for which we are accountable stewards.

31*st*, *Seventh-day*. Though submission, unquestioning submission to the divine will, be often hard to attain, it must be sought after, in every dispensation of an all-wise Providence; who is, perhaps, more acceptably served by this silent act of self-renunciation, this abandoning ourselves to his disposal and guidance, waiting upon Him in the way of his judgments, than by more conspicuous exertions for his cause, in which there is greater room for self-love to nourish itself, and mingle its own activities. "I was dumb, I opened not my mouth, because Thou didst it," said David, and surely it is the language of pious resignation and devout awe.

Fourth Month 1*st*, *First-day*. Woke this morning early, full of thought, but with a lively and sweet feeling of the merciful kindness and care of our Heavenly Father, extended to all his children, wherein I thought we might renewedly take comfort, and repose ourselves on his invisible but invincible arm, because, whilst we can humbly hope we are endeavouring to follow his guidance, we may safely confide that all will be well. After breakfast, the twenty-third psalm was brought sweetly to my remembrance, and afforded encouragement to my mind, under a variety of deep emotions. This visit, being the last S. F. is likely to pay us, before the time proposed for the completion of our union, is fraught with peculiar feelings, as it seems to bring into

very near view, my expected entrance into solemn engagements and new responsibilities. The prospect of entering upon an untried path, of setting out afresh on the journey of life, is serious indeed, and introduces my mind into deep thoughtfulness; but let me remember, there is no good thing in any of us, that is not given by the one great Source of good, who has said, "Ask, and ye shall receive;" so that in Him all strength is to be found, if we are willing to seek it, with fervency and humility of soul. He sees the end from the beginning, and will lead us into no trial which He will not enable us to meet, if our dependence be on Him; and is not this enough?—enough to bow the soul in humble adoration, whilst she can crave an interest in that heart-cheering language, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

7*th*, *Seventh day*. Set off, soon after nine, with S. F. and H. M., to Andover, on our way to the Quarterly Meeting at Poole. We are to visit the few families in the former meeting, it being a part of Alton Monthly Meeting.

9*th*, *Second-day*. The Monthly Meeting; in which our little band were severally enabled to minister to different states, and the call was renewedly extended to the dear young people. Set off to Salisbury, where J. B. joined us, and we spent an agreeable evening together.

11*th*, *Fourth-day*. Quarterly Meeting at Poole. After some time of silence, my sister's voice was heard amongst us, in a lively testimony to the divine power and goodness. I felt most easy, afterwards, to express something on the nature of the christian dispensation, as a system of reconciliation and peace; enforcing the necessity of our seeking to be conformed to its meek, forbearing spirit. The meeting closed, I trust, under a degree of solemn feeling. Our clerk being absent, I was requested by my friends to supply her place, and as it may be the last opportunity of serving my own Quarterly Meeting in this way, I was unwilling to refuse, though not very equal to the business. After the appointment of representatives to the Yearly Meeting, R. B. spoke in a very sweet and encouraging manner, on the strength that is, at times, derived from a willingness to give up to little acts of dedication. When the business was completed, my

dear sister offered a vocal prayer on behalf of this part of the heritage. I was fearful of taking off anything from the feeling produced, and yet was not quite easy to leave the meeting, without expressing something of the lively interest I felt for my dear friends in these parts. The young people were invited to bend their necks to the yoke of Christ, and to come up to the help of those who have long been faithful standard-bearers, and who, in the natural course of events, must, ere long, be gathered to that rest which is prepared for the people of God, receiving the end of their faith, even the salvation of their souls. A uniting feeling was permitted to attend us in the conclusion, which was cause of thankfulness. We dined with a considerable company; afterwards, some expression of sympathy with an afflicted state present, seemed due from me, and my sister followed in the language of invitation. I thought it no small favour, to be sensible of a degree of precious quiet throughout the day, which had been formidable to me, and proved a time of much feeling, in taking leave of many to whom we are much attached.

12*th*, *Fifth-day*. Breakfasted in company with our dear friends, W. and R. Byrd. After the reading, the latter addressed us in the language of exhortation and affectionate interest, desiring we might all keep near to our heavenly Guide, so that when separated from each other, we might be as epistles written in each other's hearts.

13*th*, *Sixth-day*. Called on several families of friends, and came home in the afternoon. It was a beautiful evening, and we had a pleasant ride through the Forest, where we saw a great number of deer bounding in the glades, more than I ever recollect to have noticed, at one time. Our spirits were in rather a low key, but a quiet feeling was permitted to attend, and a degree of thankfulness, that we had been enabled to get through the little visit to our friends in Alton Monthly Meeting, and to attend the Quarterly Meeting.

21*st*, *Seventh-day*. In the afternoon, we rode with our friends, R. and E. Lindoe, to Bittern, a beautiful drive. On the way, we had some very interesting and instructive conversation, with dear Dr. L., who is a striking example of christian humility and submission, under many complicated trials. This acquaintance has

been one of the many favours permitted to us, during our residence, of nearly six years, in this place.

22*nd*, *First-day.* After a week of very close occupation, feel glad that a day of rest is come; though even this is not to be wholly our own, a part of it being, almost unavoidably, appropriated to visiting. Some of our friends are not able to come on other days, and we are unwilling to leave the place, without seeing most or all of them at our house. I am ready to fear the multiplicity of little concerns, just now requiring our attention, will so occupy our minds, as not to leave sufficient time for that inward retirement, so necessary to our best welfare, but we must remember, there is a propriety in endeavouring to perform, with patience, our daily duties, whether great or small; and I desire to seek, more and more, after that calming influence which can stay the mind, and keep the even balance.

25*th*, *Fourth-day.* Much occupied, and my mind sadly destitute of good. Oh! for a more earnest desire, a more diligent labour of soul, wrestling for the blessing, without which, all else is unprofitable.

26*th*, *Fifth-day.* Read the account of the conversion of the jailor, in the sixteenth chapter of Acts, and of the opening of the heart of Lydia. May it be my constant prayer to have the heart opened, for the reception of divine instruction, by the power of Him who hath the key of David.

28*th*, *Seventh-day.* Went to the house of our kind friends, R. and E. L., where we spent the remainder of the day. Their temporary residence, at Bittern, is situated in a delightful part of the neighbourhood, and we greatly enjoyed a ramble through a beautiful wood, just putting forth its young foliage; the ground enamelled with violets, primroses and other early flowers, and the birds singing melodiously.

29*th*, *First-day.* At meeting this morning, but in a wandering, unprofitable state, till our dear E. W. stood up with a sweet address on the nature of worship, and the duty of seeking to be qualified for the performance of this solemn act. At the close of her communication, a short addition arose in my mind, encouraging us to endeavour to press through the crowd of hindrances and temptations, and try to touch, though it were but the hem of the

Saviour's garment, whose compassionate language to the believing soul, still is, "Thou art loosed from thine infirmity."

Fifth Month 1*st*, *Third-day.* My spirits low to-day, partly owing to the pain I have again suffered. Retired to rest, under a renewed feeling of the divine goodness and compassion, desiring I might cheerfully bear whatever suffering may be appointed me, knowing that our Heavenly Father will not inflict one stroke more of his salutary corrections, than He sees necessary.

6*th*, *First-day.* My mind is under a great weight, in the prospect of an important step, now to be soon taken: I feel it to be a solemn and awful one, but I desire to look, with faith and simple dependence, to that God who has hitherto been very gracious to me, his poor, unworthy creature, whose good providence has upheld me in many difficulties, and by whose grace I am brought hitherto. May I not, in remembrance of the past, bow reverently before Him, and say with the psalmist, "Let thy loving-kindness and thy truth continually preserve me." Words cannot express what I feel, in the consideration of how large a part of life has been suffered to pass away, with improvement that bears little proportion to the advantages bestowed. Grant me grace, O Lord! I beseech Thee, so to walk through the remainder of it, whether it be long or short, that my conduct and conversation may, in all things, adorn thy doctrine; and when it shall please Thee to recall the life Thou hast given, Oh! grant that I and those dearest to me, may be admitted within the pearl gates of thy heavenly city, where all the multitude of thy redeemed for ever sing thy praise. Amen.

Towards the close of the evening meeting, a degree of that influence which resembles the descending of the dew, was mercifully granted, and vocal supplication was offered on behalf of the Lord's visited children, the poor of his family, who feel they have no other helper.

10*th*, *Fifth-day.* In the afternoon, my sister and myself called at Michael Maurice's, and were invited to see Emma, who has been confined all winter, with severe illness. She has a distressing cough, which continues almost incessantly, from the early morning till very late at night, when, from the complete exhaustion of nature, the dear sufferer gets a few hours

sleep. Notwithstanding this afflicted state of the body, her mind is supported in patient resignation, and even cheerfulness, so that her chamber is a scene of deep instruction, affording a remarkable display of the power of divine grace to uphold the soul that depends upon it, in every hour of trial.

11*th*, *Sixth-day*. This morning, visited the House of Refuge for the last time. H. M. read the history of the resurrection of Lazarus, and a psalm. After some pause, supplication was offered on behalf of these poor wanderers, that they might be brought, in the depths of penitence and abasement, to behold their wretched state, and be given to see the hope set before them, through the gospel of our Lord and Saviour.

13*th*, *First-day*. Stayed from meeting, on account of the cold in my face. J. and W. R. supped with us. Before they went away, a feeling of interest on account of our friends at Southampton, was renewedly felt, and I ventured to express my desire, that some who, I apprehend, have been divinely visited, of latter time especially, might be willing to bend to the sanctifying influence of heavenly love and power.

14*th*, *Second-day*. After our morning reading, my dear aunt E. H. addressed us, in a beautiful manner. S. F. afterwards offered a solemn and affecting prayer on behalf of our dear relatives present, and for ourselves who are about to enter into covenant. It was a memorable opportunity, wherein our hearts were renewedly contrited under the feeling of heavenly good. This evening, the party from Wellington arrived. The expectation of them, had been rather formidable to me, having but little acquaintance with S.'s relations ; but when the first meeting was over, I felt able to take comfort in being privileged with the company of these dear and valuable friends. After supper, in a short time of retirement, E. W. expressed a few sentences, and Sylvanus Fox spoke in thankful commemoration of the merciful dealings of divine Providence with some of our souls ; and we felt together, there was renewed cause to acknowledge the continued goodness of the heavenly Shepherd, who is thus pleased to feed and water and nourish his feeble flock.

15*th*, *Third-day*. In the evening, before some of our visitors took leave, the gathering influence of heavenly good was permitted

to cover us, and a precious silence was felt in our social circle. My dear aunt spoke sweetly from the text, "Be still, and know that I am God." Our excellent friend, W. F. followed with the words, "The memory of the just is blessed," enlarging on the vivid recollection he that day had, of the pious example of our beloved, departed parents, and expressing his belief, that if it had been consistent with the will of Infinite Wisdom, to have continued them in a state of mortality to the present hour, their unity would have been with us in the prosecution of the important step before us. I am quite unable to do justice to the comforting, strengthening nature of his communication, which was succeeded by a solemn prayer offered by S—s F. So closed this day,—a day in which we have indeed been favoured to partake together, as of the bread and wine of the kingdom; and now, O my soul! let every thing within thee, bow, in humble, reverent prostration, before the footstool of thy adorable, ever-merciful Lord.

16*th*, *Fourth-day*. Rose, under a degree of quiet feeling, yet full of apprehension as to the important engagements of this day; but after our morning reading, which consisted of the ninety-ninth and one hundredth psalms, my mind was covered with a precious stillness, and the language of supplication arose to the one unfailing Helper of the poor and needy; and I was favoured, afterwards, with that calming, sustaining influence, which enabled me to go through what was required at the meeting, with more firmness than I expected. Soon after the meeting was collected, our dear E. W. said a few words on the spirituality of the divine teaching. S—s F. then rose with the text, "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." He enlarged, in an appropriate and instructive manner, on the duty of ordering our daily conduct and conversation in the divine fear, and expressed his belief, that if this were more generally the concern of professing christians, the nations of the world would wonderfully flock to the standard of our Redeemer; concluding with the text with which he began. After some interval, my dear friend and myself entered into the solemn covenant of marriage. W. F. afterwards stood up with the words, "When He giveth quietness, who then can make trouble," beautifully setting forth the inestimable value

of this precious quiet, which results from a simple dependence on the divine power, and the support that is extended by the great Head of the church, to his little flock of faithful followers, under all their trials and afflictions. S—s F. concluded in solemn supplication, that the bread broken amongst us this morning, might be blessed of Him who alone can give the increase.

CHAPTER VII.

1827, 1828. Sketch of her character—Bognor—Southampton—Uffculm—Wellington—Prospect of religious service—Journey into Yorkshire—Religious engagements there—Return home—Memoranda.

No part of this volume would, perhaps, be more interesting or instructive, than a minute and accurate delineation of the character and habits of the subject of this Memoir, in the new sphere into which she was now introduced. Such a description, however, will not be attempted beyond a hasty glance at one or two points of general interest.

Maria Fox was remarkable for the judicious arrangement and diligent occupation of her time. In this, she was actuated by religious principle, having a deep and abiding sense of the shortness and uncertainty of life, and of her accountability for the faithful discharge of her duties of every kind. This industry, combined with the faculty of executing with rapidity whatever she undertook, enabled her to accomplish far more, than with so delicate a frame would otherwise have been possible. Naturally disposed for intellectual pursuits, she, nevertheless, did not neglect her domestic duties; on the contrary, when she became the mistress of a family, they occupied their legitimate share of her attention; and she brought to bear on them, that industry, order and method, which prevented their absorbing an undue portion of her time and thoughts. In her, mental culture and domestic habits were hap-

pily blended, affording a striking illustration of their entire compatibility, in a well regulated mind.

Economy in her personal expenditure was another prominent feature in her character. She was ever reluctant to expend for her own convenience, and still more so for her gratification, that which might be applied to the relief of the distressed, or to the benefit of her fellow-creatures, regarding herself as a steward, responsible for every gift, temporal as well as spiritual.

Fifth Month 18*th, Sixth-day, Bognor.* In looking back to the circumstances and events of the last few weeks, to the deeply mingled feelings that have successively possessed our minds, my soul is touched with an awful sense of my own unworthiness of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth, which have been shown to one of the weakest of the Lord's children. How often has my faithless heart been ready to sink within me, to faint like the people formerly, in their progress to the land of Canaan, because of the greatness of the way; and yet how has the arm of divine sufficiency been revealed for my support, so that amidst discouragement, doubting and dismay, a degree of capacity has been secretly afforded, to lay hold on that hope which is declared to be an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and to cast myself on the everlasting mercies of a covenant-keeping God. Blessed and praised for ever be his adorable name! He remaineth to be a strong habitation, whereto those who fear Him may continually resort; and as they depend simply upon Him, He makes a way for them, where they can see no way, so that they are ready to exclaim with the psalmist, in the review of his gracious dealings, "What ailed thee, O thou sea! that thou fleddest? thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back? ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams, and ye little hills, like lambs?"

19*th, Seventh-day.* In the evening, my mind was renewedly made sensible of a precious quiet, not at our command, and which I esteem an unspeakable favour. To be, in any measure, made partakers of that invaluable legacy bequeathed by our great and

gracious Lord to his disciples, in those memorable words, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you," is surely all the humbled soul can desire, and ought to fill the heart with gratitude and praise.

23*rd*, *Fourth-day.* A sweet walk this evening, by the sea. Sat down and watched the gently breaking waves; thought and talked of our dear friends now met in the solemn assembly in London, and felt a desire that a measure of that heavenly virtue, which is often communicated, on these occasions, by the great Head of the church, might be extended to the most distant and scattered members, that all who are parts, however obscure, of the body, might feed on, and be refreshed by, the bread which cometh down from God out of heaven, might know something of that blessed fellowship with the Father, and with the Son, which constitutes the communion of saints.

25*th*, *Sixth-day.* Read, with my dear S., the memorandums of our journey on the continent, twelve months ago. The perusal revives, very strongly, some of the interesting scenes then passed through, and brings into lively remembrance, many dear friends to whom our hearts were united in christian love. May they be kept by the great Shepherd of the sheep, from all that would harm them, and be preserved, amidst the many trials and temptations they have to encounter. Very many are their difficulties and discouragements, but all known to Him "that sitteth upon the circle of the earth," and without whose permission not a sparrow falls to the ground.

Sixth Month 2*nd*, *Seventh-day.* In the afternoon, completed our preparations for quitting Bognor. When all was ready, we sat down a few minutes, to wait for the carriage, and under a sweet feeling of quiet, a short petition was vocally offered to the great Preserver of men. An hour's ride brought us to Chichester, where our kind friends received us cordially.

3*rd*, *First-day.* At meeting, this morning, with the little company of Friends of this place. Several of those belonging to it, are from home, for whom, as well as for those present, a prayer arose in my heart, and, at length, found utterance. We arrived safely in the evening, at Southampton, where it was truly pleasant to meet my beloved sister.

5th, Third-day. About ten, we were seated in the carriage. The final departure from our little dwelling endeared to us by many recollections, and from a place replete with interests, was attended by feelings of a nature not to be described, but I think a calming influence was secretly granted, and a degree of sustaining trust in the guidance of our Heavenly Father, who, I was enabled fully to believe, would supply all our need, according to the riches of his mercy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. We travelled by way of Blandford and Dorchester, to Bridport, and reached the hospitable dwelling of our dear friends at Bradpole, in the evening.

6th, Fourth-day. Had a fine but cold ride, through a beautiful country. Passed through Charmouth, a small watering-place, situated amongst bold and picturesque scenery, to Honiton. Here, a short rest refreshed us, for the last stage of our journey, and a ride of about two hours, through a deeply wooded part of Devonshire, brought us to the rural village of Uffculm, embosomed in trees, where our temporary residence is to be, till the house at Wellington is ready for our reception. The approach to a spot that involves my first entrance on a new sphere of important duties, and an introduction to a large circle of relatives, most of whom are strangers to me, induced a train of reflections and a conflict of feelings not easily expressed; but when we entered our habitation, there seemed a precious quiet, under which we could thankfully and silently acknowledge that our cup runneth over.

9th, Seventh-day. The feelings attendant on my change of circumstances, are of a peculiar cast; and cannot fail, amidst all the causes of thankfulness that surround me, to induce many pensive musings. Great are my fears, lest I should not be able properly to meet my new duties, and the state of my health often furnishes matter of discouragement; but whilst I write, I remember how unsuitable and unseasonable are these anxieties, seeing the end is known from the beginning, to that merciful God who has so wonderfully appeared for our help, and who, I humbly trust, will care for us through all. Whatever sorrows or sufferings are in his appointment, will not fail, if the fault be not our own, to yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness, so that, in all

things, we are bound to adore Him, and to bless his great and excellent name.

10*th*, *First-day.* Went, this morning, to the little meeting of Spiceland, in the compass of which we now reside. It is about a mile and a half from Uffculm, in a retired situation, and is altogether a very pretty spot, surrounded by picturesque scenery and embosomed in trees.

14*th*, *Fifth-day.* Oh! for a more steady dependence on the invincible arm, which is often pleased to reveal itself in our weakness, poverty and humiliation. "Who am I, O Lord God! and what is my house that Thou hast brought me hitherto?" may well be the language of my soul, and whilst a review can be taken of those steps by which I have been led thus far on the journey of life, and cared for in so remarkable a manner, surely it is little short of criminal to indulge any other sentiment than that of humble, reverential gratitude, or to doubt the continuance of the Lord's mercies to the very end.

15*th*, *Sixth-day.* In the afternoon, our brother and sister S., with their two eldest children, called. It was pleasant to welcome them, though the feeling, that it was a parting visit, preparatory to their setting out on their long journey, gave a pensive tone to our minds. In a time of retirement, S. addressed us in a beautiful manner, alluding to the many conflicts that are the portion of those, who are made, in some degree, willing to follow a crucified Lord. M. made a short, but sweet addition, and I hope our hearts were thankful for the opportunity, in which we were enabled renewedly to feel that there is comfort in love, that there is fellowship in the Spirit. How unwilling we are to go down into suffering! how nature shrinks from that baptism unto death, which must be again and again submitted to, if we would know the life of Jesus to be made manifest in us! When shall we be fully bowed to the power of the cross, in every way in which we may be called on to bear it? When shall we come to that experience spoken of by the great apostle, who said, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content;"—"I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." "I can do all things," does he not add, "through Christ, which strengtheneth me." Here then, is the centre of

the christian's strength. This adorable Redeemer is the object of his faith, the source of his love, the crown of his hope He is "the way, the truth, and the life," and the soul that would be eternally glorified with Him, must be engrafted into Him, must abide in Him, as the branch abideth in the vine,—must endure all the pruning of the heavenly Husbandman, that it may be cleared of every superfluous, unprofitable shoot, and become increasingly fruitful to his praise. Oh! for a willingness to die every death, to pass through every baptism that may be appointed me, that so there may be a gradual and secret increase with the increase of God, that a capacity may be experienced, to unite in the highest language of men on earth, or angels in heaven, "Thy will be done."

21*st*, *Fifth-day*. After breakfast, we read the last chapter of Matthew, ending with those ever-memorable words of our blessed Lord, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." O heart-cheering assurance! What then need his disciples fear, so long as they keep close to their Saviour? "Who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?" The gates of hell will never be permitted to prevail against the church that is built on the one eternal, immovable rock. What is too much to suffer for the glorious privilege of being one of her living members? May we seek this above all, and leave every thing regarding this life to the direction of our Heavenly Father, who, in his abundant bounty, showers down upon us innumerable blessings, and administers no trials, but such as He sees necessary for us.

24*th*, *First-day*. At meeting this morning, I felt very destitute of all good, till near the conclusion, when I was led to reflect on the power and efficacy of living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is able to heal all our spiritual diseases and to cure all our infirmities. A desire was raised in my heart, and vocally expressed, that we might be encouraged to repair to this "fountain opened to the house of David, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem."

25*th*, *Second-day*. In the afternoon, went to a cottage at some distance, to see a poor woman. The road through winding lanes, beautifully shaded with foliage. Found her in the midst of

poverty, apparently uncomplaining, and very thankful for the little kindnesses shown her.

Seventh Month 4th, Fourth-day. My spirits greatly overcome, with the prospect of entering on my new allotment at Wellington. We went to meeting at Spiceland, and from thence came to our own home. I entered it, with feelings not to be described. Such a view of the mixed cup of life was present to my mind, as, for a time, almost overpowered me. A flood of tears relieved me; and the calming influence of that which is not at our command, was mercifully afforded.

5th, Fifth-day. After our morning reading, I ventured to bend the knee, and pour forth my desires for ourselves and our household, in prayer to that gracious God, who only can bless us, and enable us to walk acceptably before Him, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

10th, Third-day. A pleasant ride to Taunton, to attend our Monthly Meeting. Found it larger than I had expected to see it. Soon after we sat down, a prayer seemed to arise in my heart, for the Lord's spiritual church everywhere, for "all that in every place, call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord;" but in an act so solemn, feared to move, not knowing but that it might more properly devolve on some other individual. Towards the close, however, finding the exercise continued with me, I ventured to approach the sacred footsool.

11th, Fourth-day. Rose this morning, with a feeling of concern, that we may be favoured to know, in all things, what is the divine will concerning us. Oh! for a patient abiding under all, until He, who is pleased at times to bring the blind by a way they know not, shall see meet to reveal Himself more fully to our souls, and to show us the path in which He would have us to go. May I be enabled to be, in the best sense, a sympathizing helpmeet to my dear companion!

24th, Third-day. The desire of my soul at present is, that we may seek, in all things, to be instructed, that we may bow in reverent submission to Him who is the God of our lives, and pray to be taught of Him what is his holy will concerning us. "My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from Him," He knoweth all our wants, all our infirmities, all our hidden con-

flicts, and can pour in, whenever He sees meet, the oil and wine of his kingdom, can strengthen, comfort, heal us, and enable us to say, with humble gratitude and in a degree of holy confidence, "I know that my Redeemer liveth." Called to take leave of S. and M., who set out, to-morrow, on their way to Scotland. We cannot doubt but they will be supported and their little flock cared for, by the great and good Shepherd, who, when He putteth forth his own sheep, goeth before them.

27*th*, *Sixth-day*. Attended the Bible Meeting; where Andrew Brandram gave much interesting information on the present state of the Society's great objects, at home and abroad. On the whole, a nice meeting.

8*th Month* 5*th*, *First-day*. At meeting, which was silent till near the close, when I ventured to offer a petition that had been raised in my heart earlier; but I feared to move, lest it should not be enough in the constraining necessity. In the afternoon, we read some letters, which recalled, in a lively manner, past thoughts and feelings, and reminded us forcibly, how much we owe to our all-bountiful Preserver and Benefactor, from whom all good cometh.

9*th*, *Fifth-day*. Spent some time with a poor woman, in a state of great suffering. Oh! how much have we to be thankful for, who are surrounded with so many comforts and advantages, and when any trial of this kind comes, find it accompanied by every alleviation.

11*th*, *Seventh-day*. Suffered my mind to be too much disturbed by some domestic perplexity. Oh! when shall I learn to hold the trifling occurrences of life in their proper place, and attain that even, placid disposition, so desirable and beneficial to the mind? This week, we have several interesting letters from our distant relations. One from my aunt, B. H., with an extract from her brother, Daniel Wheeler's. He seems still bound to his exiled situation, in Russia, and writes as if encompassed with trials, yet having strong faith in that God who has wonderfully delivered him out of many troubles.

12*th*, *First-day*. Oh! for an increased disposition to cast all care on One who careth abundantly for his children, and never forsakes them in the hour of need, if their faith and hope

remain stedfast in Him. Felt some uneasiness in the evening, from an apprehension that I had, in the course of the day, given way to a degree of levity, though my state spiritually, is not such as to occasion elevation; on the contrary, one of deep poverty, if it be right so to designate feelings, that, I fear, proceed chiefly from insensibility or unwatchfulness. May it be my daily prayer, to have a heart established in divine grace, and so, be enabled to keep hold, in all seasons, of the anchor that is sure and stedfast; that in times of trial, there may be a capacity to trust and not be afraid, because the Lord is our helper. He has, indeed, condescended remarkably to sustain through a variety of circumstances, and has proved Himself, "a strong hold in the day of trouble." Oh! saith my soul, may we ever cleave unto Him, and seek to have the will truly surrendered,—offered up, as a complete burnt-offering, upon his holy altar; for the Lord is "a great King above all gods," and is everlastingly worthy of adoration and praise.

19*th*, *First-day*. Had an interesting conversation with my dear S. F., on a subject that has long occupied my serious attention, but which I have feared to mention to any one, because the work of the ministry is so awful, and the nature of such engagements so weighty, that I feel greatly afraid of mistaking a feeling of natural interest, for a divine call, and so, going beyond the requiring. Besides this, many circumstances render a distant journey, more than usually difficult and formidable, but I desire to attend to the ancient command, to "stand still," waiting for the unfoldings of the light that maketh manifest; knowing that our compassionate Lord does not require anything of his people, He will not enable them to perform, as they are willing, in simple faith, to follow his holy leadings.

29*th*, *Fourth-day*. I know not whether my dear husband may yet feel himself called to unite in the service that seems to open in the North; but the desire of my heart is, that he may be permitted to see clearly what is the divine will. Went to meeting, and after a time of doubt and hesitation, ventured to pour forth a petition, for the increase of our faith, and for more capacity to follow, in simplicity, the heavenly Leader.

Ninth Month 2*nd*, *First-day*. Attended the meeting, at

Taunton, where I sat in great poverty and emptiness, till near the close, when my mind was unexpectedly turned to consider the deep instruction conveyed in the parable of the talents, and there seemed a little opening to communicate something of what was felt.

7th, Sixth-day. The anticipation of laying before our next Monthly Meeting, a prospect of some religious service in Yorkshire, is formidable, but I desire to be resigned to best ordering, feeling that I have indeed abundant causes for gratitude, and have need to adopt the inquiry, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits!"

8th, Seventh-day. A day rather crowded with business, chiefly of the trifling kind, and my mind was kept in more hurry than is profitable, or favourable to a state of inward quiet, which I desire increasingly to seek after.

11th, Third-day. Monthly Meeting, at which I was enabled, in a few words, to mention my prospect of visiting the meetings constituting the Monthly Meeting of Brighouse, in Yorkshire,—the families at Bradford, and attending a few meetings, in going and returning; intimating my desire that the subject might obtain the weighty consideration of my friends. Soon after this, my dear sister was engaged in a short and solemn supplication for divine aid and guidance. A time of precious quiet succeeded this offering, and several friends expressed their unity with the concern. On the whole, I trust, it was a season to which we may recur with humble gratitude, and acknowledge the goodness and mercy of the great Shepherd, who is pleased to make way oftentimes, where we see no way.

15th, Seventh-day. The prayer of my heart is, to be enabled to sympathize with my dear companion, and to be made in every way, as much of a comfort and help to him, as my feeble nature will allow; but above all, that the Lord may be pleased to strengthen him for all the trials that may attend him. My soul is humbled within me, as I write, under a sense of the innumerable mercies we have received; and the remembrance of the gracious dealings of divine providence with us both, in days that are past, seems to encourage us still to lay hold on the shield of faith, and to trust the goodness and mercy that have been so often displayed for our preservation.

19*th*, *Fourth-day.* My sister intends leaving us, on Sixth-day, for Southampton. I am solicitous on her account, knowing she will have a variety of feelings to encounter there, as well as in going to the Monthly Meeting, at Fordingbridge, to lay before her friends, the prospect of a journey into Yorkshire; but I trust, He who has hitherto been her stay, will be near to sustain her, and enable her to commit all to his guidance and good keeping.

To H. M.

Wellington, *Ninth Month* 25*th*, 1827.

My very precious Sister,

I have now the great comfort of my dear Samuel's return, bringing me the report of your safe journey. I am truly glad, thou hadst thy brother's company and kind care, and not a little rejoiced, thou mayst conclude, at his return to his stripped habitation, for such it did indeed feel, amidst all its comforts, after the departure of two so tenderly loved. Be assured, we shall think and talk of thee with deep interest: and I humbly trust, He who has seen meet for a time to separate our threefold cord, will mercifully preserve its several parts, under their various and distinct as well as mutual exercises and conflicts, and, in his own time, bind it together again, to our great comfort and strength. Yes, my precious sister! I feel that amidst all the baptisms which they must expect, who are seeking to follow a crucified Lord, there is abundant cause, humbly and reverently to bless his holy name, and to take, with thankful acquiescence, every cup by Him administered, because his mercy endureth for ever, and his faithfulness from generation to generation. I think I feel some renewed ability, to commit my dearest earthly treasures with myself, into his good keeping, and to believe that He will continue to be our rock and our refuge, and our hiding place from every storm, as we are willing faithfully to follow and unreservedly to trust Him; so that though the waves be, at times, permitted to rise high, yet shall they not prevail, nor pass over the bound appointed by infinite wisdom. . . . . .

Believe me, most tenderly thine,

Maria S. Fox.

Ninth Month 28*th*, *Sixth-day.* Went in the evening, to our newly established reading meeting. Work for the poor, was laid upon the table, which furnished useful employment to the female part of the company. The book selected was "Bates on the Doctrines and Practices of Friends;" and an interesting narrative in manuscript was afterwards read. It was altogether, an agreeable evening, and I hope a good beginning.

30*th*, *First-day.* Went to meeting, and was favoured to feel a degree of precious quiet, wherein the language of thanksgiving arose in my heart.

Tenth Month 1*st*, *Second-day.* Entering on the last week of my remaining at home for the present, brings into near view the visit to Friends of Brighouse Monthly Meeting, and introduces the mind into a variety of feelings, but I may thankfully acknowledge the prevailing one to be, a sustaining trust in God.

9*th*, *Third-day.* Monthly Meeting at Bridgewater. A little renewed ability was afforded, to encourage the living members of the church, to a faithful discharge of their several portions of labour, and to a continued trust in the sufficiency of that God, who once made the sling and stone of a simple shepherd prevail against an armed champion. At the close, my S. F. and I took the mail for Bristol, where we were kindly received by our friends, T. and S. Bigg, and were soon joined by my dear sister, to our great comfort.

10*th*, *Fourth-day.* Reached Worcester in the afternoon, and made our abode at the house of T. Pumphrey. He and his wife were very kind to us, and we found it a comfortable resting-place.

11*th*, *Fifth-day.* Came this morning to Evesham, where, at the Monthly Meeting, we met a number of friends. It was a time of some precious feeling, and strength was afforded to speak the word of consolation to such as might be under depression,—the faint and weary pilgrims Zion-ward. Proceeded afterwards to Birmingham.

12*th*, *Sixth-day.* Set off this morning for Derby, my dear husband accompanying us. He had thought of leaving us at Birmingham, but there seemed no opening for doing so, satisfactorily to himself. R. Longden and his wife entertained us with true hospitality, though entire strangers.

13*th*, *Seventh-day*. Sat with the little company of Friends here; and were permitted to feel sympathy with the afflicted and mournful. It seemed also to be given us to warn some, of the danger of resting in our own works, and to direct the attention of such to the way of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. In the afternoon, we came on to Sheffield; low and poor, but in degree sustained in dependence on the divine arm.

14*th*, *First-day*. Attended the morning meeting, under feelings of depression not to be set forth. My beloved sister was enabled to impart the word of consolation to the Lord's poor and afflicted people, as well as to proclaim the terrors of his law, to the rebellious and disobedient. It was much my lot to suffer in silence, under a sense of the oppressed state of the church, but towards the close, there seemed a little ability to speak a few words of encouragement to the mourners. The afternoon meeting was held in silence.

15*th*, *Second-day*. After breakfast, my S. F. expressed his thankfulness that we had been thus far helped on our way; my sister was then engaged in supplication, and very soon afterwards, we separated, my husband taking the coach for Leicester, and we proceeded to Bradford. Found ourselves under the roof of our dear aunt, B. H., who gave us the welcome so cheering to the drooping pilgrim; but our minds were introduced into reasonings, on hearing that herself and B. Seebohm had been engaged in a family visit here, which indeed they had barely completed. For a time, I was ready to conclude, we were mistaken in apprehending ourselves called to this service, but in the endeavour to settle into a state of resignation, we were favoured with a sustaining calm.

17*th*, *Fourth-day*. Attended the meeting under feelings of poverty and emptiness, but after some time of silence, dear B. S. spoke in a striking manner; alluded to the repeated proofs afforded of the care extended by the great Head of the church to his people, and encouraged the poor messengers to trust in the Lord. It was comforting and strengthening to us. At the close of the meeting, our certificates were read, and arrangements made for the visits, which seem likely to be more numerous than we had anticipated.

19*th*, *Sixth-day*. Our drooping minds are almost ready, at

times, to give out, but at others, the covering of heavenly love is afresh extended, and we get a little renewed in faith and hope.

21*st*, *First-day*. Meeting at Halifax. My dear sister was strengthened to express a desire that we might gather to the one great Source of all good, which seemed to have a solemnizing effect upon the meeting. Some addition was made, on the necessity of looking well to our standing. In the afternoon, sat in silence, till near the close, when my sister was engaged in the ministry, and I ventured to bend the knee and petition for this part of the vineyard.

24*th*, *Fourth-day*. Went this morning to Brighouse meeting. We were, I think, favoured with a degree of precious feeling, and some ability was afforded, to set forth the way of salvation through Jesus Christ, and to encourage all to faithfulness.

25*th*, *Fifth-day*. At meeting at Huddersfield, where a small company of Friends were assembled. We sat in the very depths of poverty, and under a pressure not to be set forth, but were at length enabled to salute a small remnant of the Lord's poor, and to proclaim the gospel warning to the transgressors. Returned in the afternoon, to Bradford.

28*th*, *First-day*. Went to meeting, where, after a considerable time of silence, I felt constrained to express my sympathy with a living remnant in this place, who may have heavy burdens to bear, and to endeavour to encourage them still to trust in the Lord their God; after which, other states in the meeting were addressed. B. S. concluded in a solemn and impressive prayer. We have abundant cause to be thankful to the Lord, who carries us along from day to day, and sustains us under a baptism unto death, which no words can fully describe. Oh! that we may abide in faith and patience, to the end of this humiliating service!

30*th*, *Third-day*. Taken ill with an attack of spasms, to which I have long been subject, on taking cold. This has, of course, suspended our work for the present. Our faith is proved, but we are short-sighted creatures, and know not the design of these things, therefore patience and resignation are our duties. We have, indeed, great cause, not only to seek after these, but to be filled with gratitude and thankfulness to our compassionate Lord and Master, who cares tenderly for his unworthy servants. We have every comfort under the roof of truly kind friends, and

the additional privilege of J. Blakey's medical skill, so that we have thought it a favour to be their guests at this time.

Eleventh Month 1*st*, *Fifth-day*. Had a comfortable, quiet ride to Leeds; though under feelings of great weakness, mental and bodily.

2*nd*, *Sixth-day*. Went to this large Monthly Meeting of Brighouse. After a considerable time of silence, my dear sister offered a vocal prayer, for the increase and enlargement of the Redeemer's kingdom. I was then enabled to cast off what had arisen in my mind, respecting the state of the true church on earth, both as to the stability and security she enjoys under the protection of her glorious Head, and also as to the afflictions, sufferings and persecutions, she is called on to endure, in conformity with his holy example; and the encouragement there is for his dependent people to put on strength in his name. J. Pease afterwards spoke instructively, enforcing the necessity of all attending to their own gifts, and endeavouring to walk in the path prescribed for them.

4*th*, *First-day*. Attended Leeds meeting, where, I trust, we may thankfully acknowledge, help was afforded, and the gospel call went forth.

6*th*, *Third-day*. The work in the families seems now to be drawing near a close, and we can, with grateful hearts, acknowledge, that hitherto we have been helped, from visit to visit, beyond what we had dared to expect, though often under feelings of our own weakness and poverty, not to be described in words. Oh! the baptisms of spirit that are needful for those, who are, at times, in unutterable condescension, entrusted with the gospel message, and who are called to enter, as capacity may be given, into sympathy with a great variety of states. These need the humbling process to be often repeated.

8*th*, *Fifth-day*. My dear husband came to us last evening. I hope my feelings are those of humble gratitude, that we are permitted to meet again. Went to the meeting at Gildersome. It was a low time, but after suffering, as under the chilly hand of death, for the greater part of the meeting, some ability was afforded, to set forth the necessity of our knowing the Lord Jesus to be to us, "the resurrection and the life."

11*th*, *First-day*. Went to meeting, at Bradford, under feelings

of much bodily and mental inability. I was, however, enabled to address some visited minds, who may be under the preparing hand, for service in the church, desiring they might be brought into a state of true resignation, and enabled sincerely to adopt the language, "Thy will be done." My sister was afterwards engaged in supplication, and B. S. offered up a feeling petition, on behalf of the poor, feeble pilgrims, who had been engaged amongst them. At the close of the meeting, my dear husband expressed his grateful sense of the kindness and care of our friends, so abundantly shown towards us, and we separated under a preciously uniting feeling, which, I trust, some of us shall long remember with gratitude. According to the social habits of this part of the country, a number of friends came to tea. Before we parted, the extension of divine love was mercifully permitted, and supplication was offered on behalf of those present, and for this portion of the heritage. Our hearts were made thankful for this renewed favour, which seemed like a parting seal to the visit in this meeting.

12*th*, *Second-day*. Left Bradford, and came as far as Sheffield, under a quiet, peaceful feeling. The idea of setting our faces homeward, very comforting.

13*th*, *Third-day*. Proceeded to Chesterfield, and sat with the little company of Friends there.

14*th*, *Fourth-day*. Attended the meeting at Mansfield, where some fresh ability was mercifully granted, to address the word of encouragement to the sincere-hearted, and to preach the way of life and salvation to those who are stumbling at the cross of Christ, especially dwelling on the great work of man's redemption, as wrought by our holy Redeemer. There was an individual present, who, we afterwards found, had resigned his membership in our Society, and joined the Unitarians. Called, in the afternoon, on a friend, who has been confined for a great length of time, by distressing illness. We found her reclining on a bed, on which she had not been able to lie down for many months, being often obliged to pass whole nights in a standing position, supporting herself by the arms upon a high table; but, notwithstanding this great suffering, there appeared to be a degree of cheerful resignation to her trials.

15*th*, *Fifth-day.* Went to Nottingham. The meeting, a low, exercising time, in which there seemed to be something like going "down to the bottoms of the mountains," and knowing "the earth with her bars" to be round about. Before the close, ability was afforded, to address those who are preserved alive in spirit, but there did not seem power to rise above the weight that pressed down our minds.

16*th*, *Sixth-day.* Set out for Loughborough, to attend a meeting with the few Friends in that place. We met a solitary, little company there, some of whom seemed glad to receive the poor messengers.

18*th*, *First-day.* At Leicester meeting, where we were enabled to salute our friends in the renewal of gospel love and solicitude, having felt attracted to them before leaving our own habitation. Towards the conclusion of the afternoon meeting, we were permitted to feel the covering of the spirit of supplication, under which a petition was offered for a living remnant in this place.

21*st*, *Fourth-day.* Came from Bristol to our comfortable habitation, and feel it an unspeakable favour to be once more safely housed, especially as the weather has become cold, and my frame feels the effect of it. Several of our relations called in the evening, to welcome us home.

25*th*, *First-day.* Rose this morning, better, as to health, than for some time past, and feeling a degree of peaceful calm, the worn down body and mind being a little recruited by rest. Attended both meetings, which were held in silence; some of us felt, I believe, that the sackcloth of spiritual poverty was our covering, though a fear attended me, that it was not, as regarded myself, altogether of that kind which has a blessing annexed to it; being no doubt occasioned, at least in degree, by a want of proper watchfulness, and of a more lively exercise of spirit. But I think I was enabled to desire an increase of these, and was led to look at the preciousness of knowing the heart to be filled with divine love. Oh! that this may be increasingly the object of my fervent prayer, and that meek and quiet spirit be sought after, which, the apostle tells us, "is in the sight of God, of great price."

It is cause for humble thankfulness, to be safely restored to the quiet rest and comforts of our own fire-side, and on taking a retrospective view of the late engagement, I am ready to exclaim, "What hath God wrought!" Though often suffered to feel an almost overwhelming sense of our own weakness, unprofitableness and infirmities, we have been enabled, from time to time, to set up an Ebenezer, and say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," and, in unutterable condescension, strengthened to testify of his goodness, to praise Him in the depths, and acknowledge that his mercy endureth for ever. And now, that my feelings are of a very mingled nature, and the settling down at home, cannot fail to bring into nearer view, an expected hour of trial, when life may be put as into the balance, I desire to seek after that state of resignation, in which only we can breathe the language, "Thy will be done," and to commit myself, body, soul and spirit, to the care and keeping of a gracious and compassionate God, remembering that the balance is held by the hand of unerring wisdom, and that whatever be the permitted portion, and whether the issue be in life or in death, the Judge of all the earth will do right. Let me remember, that even as regards the present life, our omnipotent and merciful Saviour can do for us all that is needful, can be made, under all circumstances, our strength and our stay, so that, in humble reliance on his care so often displayed towards his unworthy children, we may thankfully and confidingly say, "The Lord is my Shepherd." Pray, then, O my soul! that thou mayst be enabled to put on the breastplate of faith and love, and to take for an helmet the hope of salvation, trusting in Him who hath promised, that He will be strength in weakness to his dependent children. He numbereth the very hairs of our head, and suffereth not even a sparrow to fall, unnoticed, to the ground; but faith is not at our command, it must be sought, with earnest prayer, of Him who is the gracious author and finisher of it.

28*th*, *Fourth-day*. At our week-day meeting, this morning, where my mind was secretly led to commemorate the goodness and mercy of the Lord to his poor, unworthy servants, in that it hath pleased Him, in unutterable condescension, to fulfil to them his ancient promise, "Thy life will I give unto thee, for a prey

in all places, whither thou goest;" and though the hidden life may have been sustained by means often almost imperceptible, and at times incomprehensible to the natural mind, still, the humbled soul can account it a favour, if permitted, in any small degree, to realize the truth, that "man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord, doth man live." A little was spoken, towards the close of the meeting, expressive of a desire that faith and patience might have their perfect work, under all the humiliation that may be needful for the trial of them.

Twelfth Month 9th, First-day. Spent an interesting evening altogether, by our own fire-side, and read some letters that referred to the period when my mouth was first opened in the ministry. They recalled a variety of feelings then permitted to press on my often conflicted mind, and the remembrance of some close trials as well as mercies and unmerited consolations granted by our compassionate Heavenly Father, which ought never to be forgotten. Oh! that they may be held in grateful recollection, and the language be afresh raised. "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me."

10*th*, *Second-day.* After getting a little overdone with bodily exertion, I was betrayed, for want of greater watchfulness, into a degree of peevishness and irritability which occasioned me suffering afterwards. Oh! for the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit! that serene composure produced by a continual turning to the blessed centre of all good; that so, I might not be moved by any of the little perplexities that must be expected to attend the daily path.

11*th*, *Third-day.* Went to our Monthly Meeting at Taunton, where I felt constrained to offer the language of encouragement to some under the ministration of affliction, and to dwell on the necessity of our seeking to become more conformed to the example of our holy Redeemer, that we might know more of the fellowship of his sufferings, and of a willingness to drink the cup which may be given us by our Heavenly Father, with filial submission. My certificate for the visit in Yorkshire was returned. My sister added her concurrent testimony to what was expressed, and my dear husband also commemorated the sufficiency of the help that

had been afforded during the late engagement. It was a time wherein we were enabled, under a feeling of great weakness and poverty, renewedly to set up an Ebenezer; and for this my soul desires to bow low, in reverent thankfulness, at the footstool of the Lord Almighty.

16*th*, *First-day*. A comfortable, quiet day in our peaceful home. Attended the two meetings, which were both held in silence.

22*nd*, *Seventh-day*. Much occupied at home, and having tired myself more than it was wise to do, the evening found me low and peevish. Went to bed much dissatisfied with myself, from an apprehension I had given way to a fretful temper, whilst the many comforts with which I am surrounded, ought rather to fill me with gratitude and praise.

1828. *First Month* 1*st*, *Third-day*. Alas! how little suited to the solemn recollections of the season, have been my feelings this day! I rose very poorly, and with my mind full of trivial cares and vexations, and though my spirits have been all the day, in a low key, still it has not been that profitable sadness, whereby, Solomon tells us, the heart is made better. What a copious theme for grateful admiration and praise is supplied, in the retrospect of the year that is passed away,—a year fruitful of events, marked by providential mercies and preservations, and crowned with rich blessings! I almost shudder at the thought of the insensible frame in which my heart has witnessed its close, and entered on a new one, that presents a prospective view of no less interest and importance.

8*th*, *Third-day*. Our Monthly Meeting at Taunton. My place seems to be at home, where I hope to seek after a quiet waiting on the Lord, the one source of good, everywhere present to the humbled soul; but my state for some time past, has too much resembled that of the barren heath, which knoweth not when good cometh; or the sandy desert, which, though it drinks the shower from heaven, renders no return of fruitfulness to the great and bounteous Giver.

10*th*, *Fifth-day*. Had the great pleasure and comfort of welcoming our beloved friend W. F. We have long looked forward with hope, to a visit from this truly sympathizing and inestimable friend, and have, at length, the satisfaction of entertaining under our roof, one who took a lively interest in every circumstance relating to our union and settlement.

13*th*, *First-day.* Our meeting this morning was silent for a very considerable time ; but we had, before the close, a deeply instructive and weighty communication from W. F.

14*th*, *Second-day.* After our morning reading, we were favoured with a precious feeling, and the tribute of thanksgiving and praise for the many blessings bestowed on us, was raised in my heart, and I ventured to give utterance to it on the bended knee. Our valued friend afterwards addressed us in a beautiful and truly encouraging manner, beginning with the text, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."

23*rd*, *Fourth-day.* Much affected by reading the "Suttees' Cry to Britain," a small pamphlet lately published by a missionary, for some years resident in India. It is an appeal to Britain, on behalf of the numerous and feeble victims of a barbarous superstition, annually immolated on the funeral pile, with their deceased husbands. Oh ! that the hearts of professing christians, calling themselves followers of a most merciful and compassionate Saviour, were more generally alive to these things, that we, the highly-favoured inhabitants of this happy, this enlightened country, were but thoughtful of those, who thus sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and who seem as the prey of the devourer, in every possible sense. Surely, we ought to bear them on our hearts before that God who heareth prayer, and who has declared, that "for the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, He will arise."

Second Month 1*st*, *Fifth-day.* A multitude of thoughts and reflections crowd on my mind, and not a few fears present themselves. Oh ! that I may seek continually to hide myself in the secret pavilion, where true peace and safety only are to be found, that so my faith may be daily renewed in the great Preserver of men,—in Him, whose tender mercies are over all his works.

CHAPTER VIII.

1828, 1829. Birth of a son—Memoranda—Residence on the Devonshire coast—Visit to families of her own Monthly Meeting—Interment of P. H. Gurney—Quarterly Meeting—S. F.'s absence on the continent—Yearly Meeting—Quarterly Meeting.

We now come to that important period of her life, at which Maria Fox became a mother; but as some description of her character, in this new and interesting relation, will be given in a subsequent part of the Memoir, it will not be needful to advert to it in this place.

Second Month 14*th*, *Fifth-day*. Woke this morning in a calm state of mind. My dearest S. F. read me part of the eighteenth psalm, and we had a sweet time of stillness together, wherein, I believe, the tribute of thanksgiving secretly ascended from our overflowing hearts. In the evening, my three tenderly assiduous companions sat down in my room, when we read the hymn in the Olney collection, beginning,

> "Be still, my heart, these anxious cares,
> To thee, are burdens, thorns and snares,"

and also a psalm. A time of solemn and heavenly quiet succeeded, when the canopy of divine goodness was mercifully spread over us. I felt bound, though in great weakness, to offer a vocal thanksgiving to that gracious and almighty God, who had brought us safely through deep waters, and divided that sea before us, whose waves roared. My beloved husband knelt down immediately after, and, to my unspeakable comfort, poured forth the voice of praise, and the language of supplication for all our little company and for the precious babe committed to our trust.

15*th*, *Sixth-day*. When I look back on the events of the past week, what shall I say? May I not humbly exclaim, with Mary,

"My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." "His mercy is on them that fear Him, from generation to generation."

17*th*, *First-day.* Whilst my kind attendants were at meeting this morning, my mind was led to adore the mercy of the Lord Jehovah, and to praise his great and ever worthy name, in a review of his wonderful dealings with me, a poor, weak, unworthy creature, surely one of the lowest in his family. My feelings of mental as well as bodily weakness, can be only fully comprehended by Him, who perfectly knoweth our frame and understandeth the extent of our frailty and infirmities. He doth not forsake those who put their trust in Him;—He gives them, at seasons, tears to drink in great measure, till they are ready to say, in the prophetic words of the psalmist, "I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping;" yet is He graciously pleased to reveal Himself, from time to time, as their stay and their shield, enabling them reverently and thankfully to believe, that the support which has hitherto been so mercifully extended, will be continued to the end, as well as to acknowledge, in deep prostration of soul, that where tribulation abounded, consolation did at times still more abound, through the tender mercy of Him, who, Himself, "hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows." "My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from Him."

19*th*, *Third-day.* Mercifully permitted, during the morning watch, to draw near to the place where the soul can prostrate itself before the footstool of her God and Father; and felt a sweet serenity cover my spirit, whilst desiring to commit my all into the divine disposal.

22*nd*, *Sixth-day.* I was silently led to meditate on the universality of that love, which, when it is shed abroad in the heart, expands and enlarges it, until it can comprehend the whole human family in its wide embrace,—knowing no limits to its efforts of benevolence, whilst any ability remains. That beautiful parable was forcibly brought to my remembrance, wherein our blessed Lord strikingly illustrates his second great commandment, and replies to the inquiry of the lawyer, "Who is my neighbour?" and a fervent prayer was raised in my soul, to be brought more and more into the spirit of it. With regard to ourselves,

I greatly desire to order that small part of our affairs which comes under my immediate management, with discretion; and to be enabled to fill up, with propriety, my duties to my beloved husband and to society at large; to guard carefully against the introduction of any unnecessary expenditure, that may tend, in the smallest degree, to add to the exertions of my dear S. in the pursuit of business, and, at the same time, to be found ready "to do good and to communicate," remembering that "with such sacrifices God is well pleased," and that He who spake as never man spake, hath pronounced it "more blessed to give than to receive."

Third Month 16*th*, *First-day*. This morning, I have been to meeting, after an absence of nearly seven weeks. Some feeling of gratitude to the great Preserver was raised in my heart, and the language of thanksgiving vocally offered.

30*th*, *First-day*. After our evening reading, I felt it best to give way to the feeling of interest excited on account of our servants, and to address to each of them counsel and encouragement to seek after the only sure support and preservation. This is the anniversary of my birth-day, and ought to be a day of especial humiliation, when I consider how much time has been lost in the years that have passed away.

Fourth Month 6*th*, *First-day*. My mind is in a most sad state of disqualification for anything good, full of anxieties and fears, and but little capacity, if any at all, to look to the one Source of help. Oh! that we may be enabled, constantly, fervently, to implore the counsel and guidance of Him who can give deliverance to his people, can open the prison to them that are bound, and say to those who sit in darkness, "Show yourselves."

7*th*, *Second-day*. The Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders. After the business was concluded, I felt most easy to express a few words of encouragement to the afflicted,—those who were going mournfully, "because of the oppression of the enemy." Oh! that these may be enabled to put on a little strength in the name of the Lord, and to believe fully in his power as well as in his mercy.

27*th*, *First-day*. In the evening meeting, expressed a few words on the happy state of the departed spirits, redeemed by the

blood of Christ, and sanctified through the operation of his Spirit; encouraging to a more frequent reflection on this subject, as a stimulus to look beyond the temptations and trials of time.

Fifth Month 10*th*, *Seventh-day*. My spirits have been so much depressed, during the last ten days, and my time so fully occupied, that there has been little leisure and less inclination, to record anything; and now what can I say? To me belongeth confusion of face, in that so small returns of gratitude and praise, are rendered to the great and bounteous Giver of the many blessings showered on my unworthy head. But when the clouds arise and the storms beat, in a spiritual sense, how difficult is it to keep hold of the grain of faith that has been mercifully imparted!

11*th*, *First-day*. I was much tried, in the morning meeting, with an unprofitable, unsettled mind; but towards the close, S—s spoke on the state of the christian believer, setting forth his strength, consolation and rejoicing in his holy Head, Christ Jesus the Lord. I was so affected with the consciousness of my great distance from the happy experience described, and with the fear that many present were in a similar situation, that I felt constrained to pour out a few words of penitential confession, and to petition for that divine grace which only can give sincere repentance toward God, and unfeigned faith toward his beloved Son.

16*th*, *Sixth-day*. I cannot write a date so interesting to me, without remarking, that it is the return of the period when I entered into the most solemn covenant with him, who is the faithful companion of my life. It brings with it a train of reflections, calculated to call forth the fervent expression of gratitude to the almighty Giver of every good gift. A year has now passed away, since we entered upon the new duties assigned us, with an awful sense of their importance; and during that year, what abundant cause we have had to bless and magnify that holy Arm, which has so graciously, so mercifully sustained us, under a variety of exercises and pressures, and has enabled us, from time to time, amidst many discouragements and doubtings, to believe in the all-sufficiency of God; granting a measure of precious confidence, that, however He may be pleased to prove, He will not utterly forsake those who are seeking to put their trust in Him, and Him alone.

24*th, Seventh-day.* A very stormy day. I propose to occupy a part of it, in writing to my dear husband, whose absence seems long; but it is a comfort to know he is sharing in the privileges of those who go up with sincere hearts to a solemn feast; and who will, I doubt not, be refreshed together, at times, with the descendings of that celestial rain, whereby it pleases the Lord to confirm his inheritance when it is weary.

25*th, First-day.* At meeting this morning; but, alas! my mind very dead and unprofitable, with nothing, I fear, of that holy desire after a better state, which is compared by David, to the panting of the hart after the water brooks. Those who are met this morning, in different parts of the metropolis, were remembered; but without any capacity to participate in that solemn feeling, which, I doubt not, has been permitted to cover their assemblies.

30*th, Sixth-day.* Went to our little reading meeting. The portion read, was an instructive one, treating chiefly of the spirit of christianity in reference to war, and setting forth the benevolent and non-resisting temper of the christian, in a striking manner. I thought a degree of comfortable feeling attended, and in the end, I ventured to offer a short petition, for more and more of the sanctifying influence of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sixth Month 1*st, First-day.* At meeting, I sat in a state of painful wandering and unprofitableness, till near the close, when a sense of our unworthiness and sinfulness was so strongly impressed, that it did not seem safe to omit a vocal petition to that gracious God, who only can rebuke the devourer, and save the remnant of his heritage.

Seventh Month 6*th, First-day.* On looking into my book, I find a month has elapsed since I wrote, and the inquiry naturally suggests itself, what has it produced of profitable improvement? The mind, occupied with a variety of interesting claims, and often absorbed too much by trifles, passes on through the chequered scene of life, alternately enlivened and depressed;—sometimes ruffled by outward circumstances, and again smoothed into a calm; but what traces has it received or retained of that, which is permanently conducive to its highest interests?

23*rd, Fourth-day.* Arrived at Sidmouth. The town is finely

situated, at the termination of a richly wooded and fertile vale, running north and south between the hills, which present their brown fronts to the sea, in the form of lofty and broken cliffs. The magnificent ocean stretches beautifully to the distant horizon, and breaks upon the steep shore, under our windows. But the moral aspect of this place of fashionable resort, is not congenial to our feelings, though its natural attractions are many.

25*th*, *Sixth-day*. Rode over to Budleigh Salterton, a smaller and more retired watering-place, about eight miles farther westward. Our route was partly over the lofty cliffs, from the top of which, we had a view of the ocean and the neighbouring country, which, I should think, is not often surpassed on the shores of this island. The long sweep of bold coast, running out into many lofty points and headlands, the blue main spread in boundless extent before us, the rich inland scenery of Devonshire, and the town of Sidmouth in the valley, surrounded with elegant villas and ornamental cottages, form altogether, a coup d'œil of the most pleasing character.

27*th*, *First-day*. In our little sitting this morning, a precious feeling was permitted, of the continuance of that mercy which is ancient and new.

28*th*, *Second-day*. In the afternoon, went to see Knowle Cottage, which is thrown open to visitors, on one day in every week. The grounds contain a variety of foreign birds and animals; some of the former very beautiful. The house is elegantly fitted up in cottage style; in some of the rooms, tables were tastefully laid out, with costly and choice specimens of nature and art. A crowd of persons were there, to gaze at this display of taste and affluence; but whilst the eye wandered from one attractive object to another, the reflecting mind could not fail to inquire, what might be the situation of the possessor, as to real happiness, and whether, amidst the luxuries and elegancies that filled his apartments, he might not secretly know something of the disappointment and dissatisfaction, which filled the breast of a monarch of Israel, when, after exhausting all the sources of earthly gratification, he came to this conclusion, "All is vanity and vexation of spirit."

Eighth Month 3*rd*, *First-day*. Sat down together, in the

forenoon, when, I think, we were favoured with a precious feeling of good, and after some time, renewed ability was granted, to supplicate for the best blessings,—those spiritual privileges which are opened in the gospel of Christ our Lord.

20*th*, *Fourth-day.* Walked to the beach before breakfast, to look once more upon the blue, majestic main ; beautiful indeed it was, but we could not linger, as the carriages were ordered early. After reading a chapter, a short time of silence followed, when the renewed feeling of thankfulness to the great Giver of all our blessings, was expressed, and a petition offered, for the divine guidance and direction, under every difficulty. We took leave of our dear mother and brother, and quitted this sweet, rural village, where we had spent three peaceful weeks, not without a feeling of pensive regret.

Ninth Month 9th, Third-day. Our Monthly Meeting held here to-day. At the close of the meeting for worship, my dear husband and I laid before our friends, a prospect of visiting the meetings, as well as the families of this Monthly Meeting. After a solid pause, several expressed their unity and concurrence, and a minute to this effect was prepared. It is very formidable to us in prospect, and not the less so, for including a large number of near connexions and acquaintance. But there is One, who is sufficient for the weakest of those who are willing simply to depend upon Him.

14*th*, *First-day.* In the morning meeting, I was enabled to get rid of a burden which had, for some time, rested on me, without any power of expressing it. We began our visits to the families of this place.

19*th*, *Sixth-day.* In the evening, was the reading meeting at our house. It was larger than usual, and very interesting.

21*st*, *First-day.* My dear S. and I went to a neighbouring meeting, this morning. The matter communicated, was of a painful nature, and the cause so hidden from our view, that I was ready to question, but desire to leave that which is not revealed, as I trust the words were not spoken in my own will.

Tenth Month 3rd, Sixth-day. Completed a visit to the families of Friends at Taunton. We have had many low seasons, but have thankfully to acknowledge the help that has been mercifully

vouchsafed. Many are the conflicts and baptisms to be passed through, by those who move in this particular line of service, but if we may be kept from marring the work by any willings of the creature, and be enabled to go on, from day to day, in the simplicity of faith, it is cause for humble gratitude and praise.

5th, First-day. Went to the meeting at Taunton, this morning, an exercising time. In the evening, were at Bridgewater meeting, where a precious quiet was permitted, though we were very low. A few words of encouragement were offered to those, who might be ready to apprehend themselves so stripped and destitute, as to have nothing left that might be compared to "the grape-gleanings of the vintage."

Eleventh Month 2nd, First-day. Our afternoon meeting was unusually small, from the number of invalids. My mind was drawn into much sympathy with those who are, at times, called to blow the gospel trumpet, and the language of supplication was offered on their behalf.

13th, Fifth-day. When shall I attain to that stability in the faith, which enables the soul to pursue her course unmoved, amidst the trials and vexations that surround her, to look stedfastly unto Him who is "the resurrection and the life," and who is able to keep that which is committed unto Him. This is the patience of the saints. Grant me, O Lord! I beseech Thee, more of thy grace, more of the powerful aid of thy Spirit which helpeth our infirmities, that I may go forward, nothing doubting, trusting ever in thy word.

14th, Sixth-day. After our morning reading, we were favoured with a precious feeling, under which, I was strengthened to offer the voice of thanksgiving, as out of the very depths, and to beg for the help of Him who is the only refuge for his people, that we might be permitted to take shelter under the Almighty wing, to hide ourselves in the eternal Rock of ages, and be finally prepared for an entrance into his glorious rest. Oh! that I may thankfully commemorate the unfailing mercy and faithfulness of God, who is pleased to manifest Himself as a God nigh at hand; for my poor soul has been tossed upon the waves of conflict, and the billows have indeed gone over her; but, blessed be the Lord, He still ruleth the raging of the sea, and is pleased, at times, by his

effective word, to command a perfect calm, and for this, our souls do praise Him.

23*rd*, *First-day.* This morning, my mind seems much attracted towards the solemn and interesting occasion at Bath, the interment of the remains of our late excellent friend, P. H. Gurney; and after some conversation with my dear S. F., it appears as if it might be best for us to attend it.

25*th*, *Third-day.* Set off with my husband by the mail coach for Bath; the day was fine, and the journey agreeable, except from the apparent fatigue of the horses on the last stage.

26*th*, *Fourth-day.* A large number of Friends and others assembled at the meeting, to pay the last tribute to the remains of our highly valued friend. I think it may be said to have been a truly solemn opportunity. Went to tea with the bereft family of our dear friend, at her late dwelling in Widcomb Terrace. It was affecting to consider that it must soon be given up, and those who have been privileged to find a peaceful shelter under its roof, seek other places of residence; but all seemed sweetness, as regarded the departed spirit. I was best satisfied to request an opportunity with those most nearly affected, and was enabled to express something of the sympathy felt, as well as the desire for their encouragement, to look singly to the power which had done wonderful things for her.

Twelfth Month 2nd, *Third-day.* Went this morning to Bridgewater, in order to attend the Quarterly Meeting. Lodged at the hotel, where a considerable company of friends met at supper. Before we broke up, a chapter was read, the fourteenth of John, and after some time of silence, wherein I thought we were favoured with a preciously calming influence, I ventured to address the young people present.

3*rd*, *Fourth-day.* Quarterly Meeting. When we had separated for the business of the meeting, I thought I was made sensible, that the gathering arm of infinite love and mercy was stretched out, to draw some of the young people within the safe enclosure of the true sheep-fold, and to lead them about, and give them pasture there, as they are made willing to follow in the obedience of faith. Near the conclusion, S. B stood up, with an invitation to the young friends present, to which I ventured to make an addition. My dear aunt, Margaret Hoyland, was then

enabled to offer, in a very solemn and impressive manner, the language of thanksgiving and prayer.

4*th*, *Fifth-day*. Found a sweetness in meditating on the third of Colossians, twelfth verse. "Put on therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; forbearing one another and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any, even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." The fore part of it was so present to me both last evening and this morning, that I was induced to refer to the place, and found the subsequent verses not less adapted to the feelings of my mind; "And above all these things, put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness; and let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body, and be ye thankful."—"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." Precious word of exhortation! may it be deeply engraven on my heart, that whatever I may meet with in the way of temptation, or of the buffetings of the enemy, my soul may be kept in the quiet habitation. "When He giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?" and this quiet, the Lord will give to those who are staid on Him. All we hear and all we see, seems only to deepen the conviction, that the call to us, is to detach ourselves from the pursuit of temporal good, beyond that moderate supply which is sufficient for the circumscribed desires of a heart chiefly set upon things that are eternal. If we may be carried safely through the remainder of our pilgrimage, and know the best blessing to rest upon our precious child, we shall have abundant cause to praise that great Name which hath done wonderfully for us.

5*th*, *Sixth-day*. Woke this morning, with a calm, peaceful feeling, and found sweet consolation in some of the Lord's promises to his people. Felt particularly comforted, in reference to our dear child, trusting that the Lord God all-bountiful would graciously bless him and be his portion. This is what his parents desire for him, far more than any temporal good. If he may but receive abundantly of the dew of heaven, little of the fatness of the earth will be sufficient to satisfy an humble and thankful heart.

7*th*, *First-day*. At meeting this morning, my mind was low

but quiet. There seemed a sweet remembrance of that text, "Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord." In reflecting on the situation of the poor men now under sentence of death, I have longed that our minds might be turned to consider the necessity of that deep humiliation, that unfeigned repentance, that unutterable abasement, which must be wrought in the soul, before the wretched criminal, falling under the sentence of the violated laws of his country, can be enabled to lay hold of the hope which is held out in the gospel, to the chief of sinners. Oh! that in contemplating and magnifying that boundless mercy, which is the glory of the gospel of Christ, we may never lose sight of the infinite purity of God, and the exceeding sinfulness of sin, which alienates the soul from Him. So that I could wish the prayer of our hearts for these unhappy men to be, that they may be brought to see their real state, that they may be humbled into deep and penitential confession before that God, from whom they have so grievously revolted, and that, in this their humiliation, the Lord, who is rich in mercy, would be pleased to speak peace to their souls, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.

9th, Third-day. Went to the Monthly Meeting at Taunton. In the first meeting, I was concerned to call the attention of those present, to some of the fundamental truths of religion,—the depravity of the human heart, the necessity of the work of repentance, and the converting influence of the Holy Spirit, that all within us might be brought low under the mighty power of God, and capacity be received, to praise Him out of the depths of humiliation, for that means which He has, in his infinite mercy, appointed for our restoration and reconciliation with Him. In the conclusion of our meeting for discipline, my aunt M. H. addressed us very sweetly, directing our attention to the source from whence all good cometh, and I ventured, in a few words, to commemorate the Lord's goodness to his people.

17th, Fourth-day. In the evening, read with my dear husband, Washington Irving's "Life of Columbus." The picture it gives of the simple manners of some of the natives of the newly discovered islands, and of the miseries in which they were involved by the successive conquests of the Spaniards, deeply affecting. It was quite a relief, at the end of our reading, to turn to the sixtieth

chapter of Isaiah, and contemplate the glorious promises made to the church of Christ; to whose light, it is declared, the Gentiles shall finally come.

19*th*, *Sixth-day.* A letter from my dear sister, with some account of her visit at Wellingborough. Her feelings are deeply affected, in visiting places which present so lively an impression of what they have lost, by the removal of those who were faithful labourers and upright pillars; but though their places on earth know them no more, their record is in heaven, and to them, we humbly believe, the blessed welcome has been given, "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." For this, we desire reverently to bow before the God of our beloved, departed parents, and to petition Him, that in the greatness of his love and his mercy, He would still be pleased to make his work appear to his servants, and his glory to the children of those who now rest from their labours.

28*th*, *First-day.* Read, in the memoir of Richard Jordan, some account of his danger and remarkable preservation, on a voyage from Bordeaux to England, about the year 1801. The officers and crew of the vessel, a profane set of men, to whom this humble and devoted servant of the Lord Jesus was an object of scorn and derision; but in the hour of imminent peril, when death stared them in the face, they were compelled to acknowledge, that the Lord was with him, and were most anxious for his prayers. My soul was contrited within me, in beholding the mercy and the faithfulness of the Lord Jehovah, towards those who put their trust in Him before the sons of men; how He watches over and preserves these, how He keeps them as the apple of his eye, and in seasons of conflict and dismay, enables them to repose on the sufficiency of his own power. Well might Addison say,

> "How are thy servants blessed, O Lord!
> How sure is their defence!
> Eternal wisdom is their guide,
> Their help, Omnipotence."

31*st*, *Fourth-day.* How shall I make the closing memorandum of a year stored with blessings! "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth which Thou hast showed

unto thy servant," may well be the language of our hearts. After supper, the tribute of praise was vocally offered, with a petition that we and our household might be preserved from evil during the remainder of our earthly sojourn, and finally prepared for a blessed inheritance, through the sanctifying power and atoning merits of our adorable Redeemer.

1829. *First Month* 1*st*, *Fifth-day.* With the commencement of a new year, may I be permitted to find a renewal of strength, to " press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus!" Oh! for more of holy watchfulness, of abounding diligence, of fervent supplications, that we may be found faithful in all those duties which the Lord is calling for at our hands; and whatever may be the trials permitted us in the course of another year, may we be enabled to receive all with filial submission, and a reference to that merciful Hand which disposes events, not according to our frail and erring judgment, but according to the counsel of his own all perfect will. My dear husband has some thoughts of proposing to his brothers, a journey of business in Holland and Germany, and of offering to undertake it. I feel much, at the idea of being so far separated from him, but I hope I am, in some degree, able to commit my beloved companion, to the keeping of that gracious God, who has so mercifully preserved us hitherto.

2*nd*, *Sixth-day.* In the evening, we read some very interesting letters of my dear parents. The contemplation of their pious, circumspect conduct, and reverent fear of the Lord in their daily walk, truly instructive and animating to us. Oh! for more of the spirit which rested on them! These papers were selected from a number of others, in order to collect some particulars of the life of my beloved parents, which I am endeavouring to commit to paper.

5*th*, *Second-day.* Our dear boy had a very restless night, and my mind was distressed to see his suffering, from oppression on the chest. Amidst the acuteness of maternal feeling, however, I was mercifully favoured with a precious quiet, and was enabled to commit my dear child into the hands of infinite kindness; in the full assurance, that the will of God is a perfect will, and that it is the sanctification of those, who humbly, resignedly and thankfully bow in submission to it.

17*th*, *Seventh-day.* Occupied, most of the morning, in visiting the cottages of the poor, to investigate their wants in the way of clothing, previously to the distribution of some, provided principally by our dear mother.

22*nd*, *Fifth-day.* Having had an invitation to go with W. Flanner and his companion, to Taunton, I concluded to accept it, as it would give me a little more of their company. My mind had been drawn into much sympathy with dear W. F., under his peculiar discouragements, and a petition was raised in my heart, for the Lord's messengers, to whom it has pleased Him to commit a dispensation of his gospel, and who, being ambassadors in bonds, are called also to be partakers of the afflictions of the gospel. A little ability seemed to be afforded for utterance, and W. F. was afterwards engaged in a lively, clear and striking communication. After setting forth the way of salvation, by a crucified Saviour, and the necessity of being awakened to the consideration of those things which are of eternal importance, he ended with the word of encouragement to the Lord's people. To this, I ventured to make a small addition, commemorative of the goodness of God towards his humble, dependent children.

23*rd*, *Sixth-day.* Engaged in visiting the poor. We called on the parents of a child, who was killed by an accident; the father was very calm, and went with us to see the remains, which were particularly agreeable to look upon, having a sweet, placid expression. The poor boy is highly spoken of, as a good, orderly child, at home and at school.

28*th*, *Fourth-day.* At meeting, found it in my heart to speak a little of that great deliverance and enlargement, which the Lord hath given, through his Messiah, to all such as believe on his name. In the afternoon, went with my husband, to call on a young woman, of whose conduct, towards a mother who is weak in her intellects, we have heard a most affecting account. We had a great deal of close conversation with her, but I fear her hard heart was little touched.

To S. W.

Wellington, *First Month* 30*th*, 1829.

. . . . . Hearing, last evening, that thou art again separated for a season, from the sweets of the domestic fire-side, and called

nearly to participate in the feelings of afflicted relatives, I am desirous to lose no time, in attempting to convey to thee and them, the expression of affectionate sympathy. The information of the removal of our dear cousin, reached us from my sister, about a week ago, and was the more of a surprise, as we had not been previously aware of her being so greatly an invalid. Thy dear uncle and his affectionate daughters, will keenly feel this bereaving stroke, but, I trust they are, in infinite mercy, enabled to receive it with a degree of humble resignation, and to believe that the Judge of all the earth, in all things, doeth right; that He is supremely good, when He giveth, and when He sees meet to take away, and that his great name is worthy to be eternally blessed; seeing that his mercy is from generation to generation, and his faithfulness to children's children. But though this may be, at times, their favoured experience, though they may feel supported by that which is beyond and above all human succour, nature must have its relief, and surely, we are allowed to weep for those, whose loss can never be supplied to us in this world; but, when we can, with an eye of faith, look beyond this transient sojourn, and contemplate that state of eternal rest and peace, in which we humbly trust they are centred, when we consider how happily they are escaped from all the conflicts and trials of time, and associated with the spirits of the just made perfect, does it not, my beloved cousin, draw forth the heartfelt acknowledgment of gratitude and praise to Him, who hath wrought wonderfully for them. My heart embraces many of our beloved relatives at York, in that feeling of tender sympathy, which the present bereavement awakens, knowing it will be to some a lively renewal of that acute suffering, through which they have so lately had to pass; but these, we cannot doubt, will know their strength and stay to be the almighty arm. . . . . .

Thy tenderly attached,

Maria S. Fox.

First Month 31*st*, *Seventh-day.* At home all day; rather low in spirits, and, I fear, not fully looking to the one Source of help and consolation.

Second Month 1*st*, *First-day.* In the morning meeting, felt

constrained to speak a little, on the necessity of preparation for the awful period, when all must stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

8*th*, *First-day*. This morning brings with it feelings of a deeply interesting nature; the predominating one ought to be that of humble gratitude, to the great and bounteous Giver and Preserver of life. It is the anniversary of our dear child's birth-day. Oh! that we may be enabled to train his expanding faculties, in such a manner as to promote his permanent happiness, and, above all things, to imbue his infant mind with the fear and love of that God, who hath so graciously condescended to care for his parents, and who is the all-sufficient portion of such as trust in Him.

22*nd*, *First-day*. My mind was comforted this morning, in the remembrance of those words, with which David opens one of his beautiful psalms; "The Lord is my shepherd;" and in our morning meeting, it seemed best to express something respecting the privileges enjoyed by those, who, through submission to the baptizing power of the spirit of Christ, are enabled to adopt this language. To these, there shall be indeed no want of any thing seen to be meet for them, by their gracious Preserver and Protector.

To M. B.

Wellington, *Second Month*, 1829.

My dear friend,

I believe I need make no apology for the freedom of addressing a few lines to thee, at the moment of thy departure. Thou wilt not wonder that I take a lively interest in your journey, or that I am anxious you may derive mutual comfort and strength from your association, through the diversified scenes it may offer. It is truly pleasant to me that my dear S. is to have thy company, and I trust thou wilt be helpful to him, not only in those pursuits which are the immediate object of your journey, but be also enabled to enter with him into secret exercise of spirit, for the blessing of peace and preservation. Of this, the humble believer in the Lord Jesus feels himself peculiarly in need, when his lot is cast amongst such as lightly esteem or deny that holy Name, which he

finds to be the only sure refuge. You will, no doubt, meet with many irreligious, as well as some religious persons, with whose different states your minds will be affected. I know it is my dear husband's earnest desire, and believe it will also be thine, so to be preserved in watchful fear, as that you show yourselves, by the powerful testimony of example, on the Lord's side. It is declared of the Lord, concerning his little, lowly, dependent ones, that they should be as a dew from Him, in the midst of many people. The principle by which these are governed, is diffusive in its nature, though often almost imperceptible in its operation, and is elsewhere compared to the little leaven in the three measures of meal; so that by endeavouring to dwell deep, and seeking daily supplies from the one inexhaustible fountain, I cannot doubt but you will be enabled as you pass along, although your object is of a commercial nature, to cast in what may be compared to a little of the precious seed, in places where the state of religion and morals is lamentably low, and where infidelity, vice and profligacy abound. Having myself known a little of the depressing effect of that moral and spiritual darkness, by which the traveller at times finds himself surrounded, I am perhaps the more able to sympathize with you, and the more solicitous that you may be inwardly refreshed by Him, who is Himself light, and in whom is no darkness at all.

With the expression of very kind regard,

Thy sincere friend,

Maria S. Fox.

Second Month 28th, Seventh-day. After our reading this morning, we were permitted to partake together of a preciously uniting feeling, under which, the voice of supplication arose on behalf of those who were about to leave us, to travel in a distant land. We again sat down to spend a few interesting minutes together before the arrival of the coach; when a solemn covering again overspread us, and my dear husband petitioned for all those dear connexions from whom he was about to separate, particularly for his honoured mother, his wife and little son. My heart desires to commemorate, with humble gratitude, this renewed evidence of our Heavenly Father's love, and under the strengthen-

ing efficacy of it, to commit my greatest earthly stay into his holy keeping. We set off for Bristol, and arrived safely at the house of our kind friends T. and S. B.

Third Month 1*st*, *First-day.* Some of our friends in this city, have just entered on the work of visiting the families of this large meeting. Our minds were led into sympathy with them, under the conflicts attendant on this peculiar line of service ; and a vocal petition was offered on their behalf, in the morning meeting.

3*rd*, *Third-day.* At meeting this morning ; it was a low time to me. In the evening, the prevalence of that precious influence which gently draws the mind towards the source and centre of good, was sweetly felt ; my S. F. expressed a few words, to which I made a short addition, when our dear friend S. B. knelt down and supplicated for the best blessing, especially on account of my beloved husband. It was a truly comforting opportunity, and my heart thankfully acknowledges the unmerited mercy extended to those, who desire to move, even in temporal concerns, under a sense of their own weakness, and of the need there is for daily supplies of heavenly aid and succour.

4*th*, *Fourth-day.* My dear S. set off about seven for London ; we parted under a quiet feeling. I reached home safely, in the afternoon ; had agreeable company, and found my sister and our dear boy better than when I left. It is a great comfort to rejoin them, and to feel my own home a quiet habitation, where my mind can retrace the circumstances of the few last days, with gratitude to our gracious and compassionate Heavenly Father. May I not say, "Bless the Lord, oh my soul ! and all that is within me, bless his holy name." My dearest husband is indeed far away, and likely in a few days to be beyond the rolling deep, but the Shepherd of Israel sleepeth not ; He remains to be "the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea," and permits his children to meet, at seasons, at his sacred footstool, and to feel, whether present or absent, united in Him.

6*th*, *Sixth-day.* Went through my district of sick poor ; saw one poor woman near her end, who died a few hours after we called. Received a very interesting letter, with an account of my

aunt B. Hoyland, who appears to be gradually sinking, but sweetly sustained on the bed of languishing, by the presence of divine love and power.

To S. F.

Wellington, *Third Month 7th*, 1829.

. . . . . Now I can no longer address thee in our own country, the idea of separation comes on me in its full force, and makes me look towards the lengthened time that is to intervene before we meet again, with a sensation I shall not attempt to describe; but I esteem it cause of humble gratitude, to be permitted to feel our dwelling a peaceful shelter, and the quiet of it, very congenial. H. and I think and talk a great deal of thee, and follow thee in thy journeyings. How precious is the belief, that we can and do, at times, meet where spirits may hold sweet communion. . . . . .

I wish to occupy a part of the evening in writing to my dearest husband, who is now separated from those with whom he is wont to assemble. When I awoke this morning, my heart was filled with a tranquillizing sense of heavenly love and goodness, in which thou wast so present to me, that it seemed, indeed, something like communion of spirit. And so, my dear love, thou art, I suppose, at this moment borne upon the waves, or else about landing on a foreign strand. I need not say, when thou art looking back to the expanse of waters,

> Think that the ocean zone which clasps our shore,
> And laves its rocks with ever-moving swell,
> Encloses hearts that love thee, lips that pour
> A prayer for thee, in that full word, Farewell ;—

because I am sure thou knowest how much our hearts desire thy comfort, and that the blessing of peace may be with thee. . . . . I cannot say that I did not regret your sailing on First-day, but have no doubt of thy desire to do for the best. Here, thou wilt excuse me, if I venture to repeat the hope, that you will not be induced, for the sake of accelerating your progress, to travel on that day, recollecting we had reason to repent of doing so. Perhaps, this is peculiarly of consequence, in countries where the

universal disregard of religiously observing one day in the seven, is but too apparent. . . . . I have a precious degree of trust for thee, that thou wilt be kept as in the secret place, and be permitted to "abide under the shadow of the Almighty." This passage, which presented forcibly to my mind in the opportunity at T. B.'s, is now again revived. Oh, that we may mutually experience it! I desire to feel very thankful, that we were permitted so sweetly to enjoy each other's society, during the few days we were in Bristol, and that it was given us to part under a degree of renewed ability, to commit and commend each other to the one availing Helper and Comforter of his people. . . . . .

M. F.

Third Month 10th, Third-day. Our Monthly Meeting. My sister spoke instructively on the text, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God;" setting forth the necessity of our asking in faith, and with a spirit seeking after conformity to the divine will concerning us. William Forster stood up soon after, and said he apprehended others beside himself, were prepared to acknowledge, it had been a season of spiritual refreshment and breaking of bread. He spoke also on the benefit of afflictions; said it was an unutterable mercy, when we were permitted to feel the Lord's hand to be upon us, even though it were in the way of chastening; that it was a blessed experience to know, that the various dispensations of divine providence were gradually producing within us, something of the coming and establishment of the Redeemer's kingdom. It was a sweet word of instruction and comfort that was given to this dear friend to declare amongst us.

11th, Fourth-day. Oh! the perilous situation of those who are in conspicuous stations! How are these set as a mark for the archers! Against these, the enemy of souls, who is the betrayer and accuser of the brethren, directs his deadliest shafts, and seeks to effect their overthrow, with a cruelty like that of the great dragon, mentioned in the Apocalypse, who, with his tail, drew down the stars of heaven. There is no safe state or situation, but that of being hid in the cleft of the rock, sheltered under the overshadowing wing of ancient and everlasting goodness. May it be the daily prayer of our souls, to be kept little and low, and

so to be subjected to the discipline of the cross of Christ, that self, in its various shapes and subtle workings, may die daily; for truly in us, that is, in our flesh, dwelleth no good thing. May we be so deeply impressed with the deceitfulness of our own hearts, and the power of the world, the flesh and the devil, that whilst we humbly believe, the saints may be "kept by the power of God, through faith, unto salvation," we may constantly remember the injunction of our blessed Lord, "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation."

12*th*, *Fifth-day*. My mind, after retiring to rest last night, was a good deal disquicted by anxieties respecting my dear husband; but this morning, there seems to be a degree of precious calm, and a renewed sense of the extendings of providential care, for which I desire to feel thankful.

13*th*, *Sixth-day*. Felt this morning, a desire to be kept in the secret habitation, where the power of the enemy has no place. Oh! that blessed word of our Redeemer! "Abide in me." Thus may we be kept, O Lord! abiding in the vine of life, that we may be preserved alive, and become fruit-bearing branches to thy praise.

15*th*, *First-day*. In the afternoon meeting, I ventured to express a little, on the stability and holy settlement which is enjoyed by the true church of God, amidst all the fluctuations of time, and the refuge, that is ever open to the humble believer, in the day of trial. My mind seemed to be attracted towards some, who, I am ready to apprehend, are, of late time more especially, made sensible of the call to follow the Lord Jesus, and the word of encouragement was offered to these.

22*nd*, *First-day*. Thought much of my beloved husband in his solitary wanderings,—"Far from the fold, and in a barren waste," but a little comforted in the remembrance, that although in an outward sense,

> "No shepherds' tents within his view appear,
> Yet the chief Shepherd is for ever near."

23*rd*, *Second-day*. Went in the afternoon to Tonedale. Towards the conclusion of the visit (as indeed throughout the day

at times) my mind seemed to be covered with something of a desire to approach the sacred footstool. There did not appear to be any opportunity for giving expression to this feeling, nor am I sure such an offering was required. I desire to be found watchful in not passing by opportunities of drawing near to the Fountain of all good, when we meet for social intercourse, in that reverent bowedness of spirit, wherein the mind is permitted to feel the descendings of heavenly dew; but I am afraid of words. Deepen us all, O Lord! cause us to grow in the root, rather than in the branches; that we may increase in holy stability, and bring forth only such fruit as is acceptable to Thee, through the power of the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24*th*, *Third-day.* Reading the Life of Legh Richmond, a book replete with instruction. Went with S. C. F. through her district of sick poor. Felt very desirous I might not spend any thing in superfluity for myself or dear boy, but endeavour to spare every penny for the relief of our suffering neighbours.

26*th*, *Fifth-day.* On awaking this morning, was comforted with the remembrance of that scripture promise, "Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." Oh! to be fed with that spiritual food, which keeps up the life of faith in the soul. "This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent."

29*th*, *First-day.* The meeting this morning, as to myself, a low time. Unprofitable, cold and dead was the state of my mind during the greater part. O Lord! "quicken me in thy righteousness;"—"lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death." In the afternoon, towards the close, a quiet feeling seemed permitted, which continued through the evening, and after our reading, a little ability was felt, to commend my dear absent one and ourselves to the best keeping, in vocal prayer.

30*th*, *Second-day.* My birth-day. Three times twelve years have run their rapid course, and where am I? Lord, "so teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Thirty-six years of providential mercy, demand the solemn and heartfelt tribute of gratitude and praise.

Our precious child very interesting; Oh! that he may be blest

with spiritual blessings, and have his portion with the little flock of Christ, that he may be indeed one of the lambs of the heavenly fold, whom the great Shepherd tenderly carrieth in his arms, and leadeth into the green pastures of life and salvation.

Fourth Month 8th, Fourth-day. In the afternoon, we looked out for the mail, and had the inexpressible pleasure of welcoming my dearest husband, looking better, after his long journey, than I feared. I trust my heart was made truly thankful to that merciful Preserver, who has kept him by land and sea, and now restored him safely to the bosom of his family.

12th, First-day. At meeting this morning. Such is the prevailing darkness of my mind as to the best things, that I am at times ready to conclude myself, as those who go down "to the sides of the pit." Arise, O Lord! and plead my cause; "let not mine enemies triumph over me."

15th, Fourth-day. Quarterly Meeting at Bristol; a low time to many. We were not, however, without the word of exhortation from several. After dinner, my mind was secretly attracted towards the young people, with a desire that they might profitably receive those afflictive dispensations which are appointed by our Heavenly Father. Some of those present, being now under peculiar circumstances, were addressed.

26th, First-day. In the evening, received a letter conveying the solemn tidings of my dear aunt, B. Hoyland's departure from this world. The closing scene was calm, after a day of great bodily conflict: the mind appears to have been remarkably borne up by the consolations of the divine Spirit.

Fifth Month 3rd, First-day. At meeting in the morning. I was very low, but thought there was a feeling of that which is not at our command, and something of the spirit of prayer. My dear sister, before the close, offered it vocally, much to my comfort.

4th, Second-day. Busy in preparing for an approaching journey to London. In the present state of the church, so much there is to depress the mind and sink it below the proper balance, that there is little capacity to go up cheerfully to her solemn feasts. The deep retirement and obscurity of some lonely dwelling, would be more congenial to my feelings, but it seems best for

us to try to be at this Yearly Meeting, having no particular cause of detention at home.

Sixth Month 9th, Third-day. Since the last memorandum was made, my S. F. and I have attended the Yearly Meeting. We left home with our dear mother, and had a very agreeable journey. On our way, we made some calls on friends living in solitary situations, and as we had a few days before the commencement of the Yearly Meeting, took the opportunity of paying a short visit to our friends, T. and E. S., which was very pleasant; were with them at Uxbridge, on First-day, where we called on several invalids. The Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders met on the 18th, and the general Yearly Meeting on the 20th. Many minds were, I believe, deeply bowed under the feeling, that the church is, indeed, cast down, that her living members have to go "mourning, because of the oppression of the enemy;" but surely, there is abundant reason to acknowledge that the Lord was pleased, in the greatness of his mercy, so to overshadow us at seasons with the canopy of his love, as to confirm our spirits in the precious belief, that He is still good to Israel, and that He hath not utterly cast off the remnant of his heritage. During the various sittings of the Yearly Meeting, many interesting subjects were brought forward. Some very affecting accounts of the state of things in America, brought Friends into near sympathy with their suffering brethren, on the other side the Atlantic. The meetings ended on Sixth-day, the 29th, under a solemn covering, and though as respects ourselves, it was a time of great humiliation, I trust we can thankfully say, we felt it a privilege to be permitted to partake in many seasons of refreshment with our friends.

17*th, Fourth-day.* At our meeting, I was led to reflect, on the distress felt by the disciples at sea, when the tempest ran high and their ship was covered with waves, and on the deliverance wrought for them by their Lord, who spake and there was a great calm. There seemed, in the remembrance of it, something like a word of renewed consolation to the sorrowful and tossed soul, and a little help was mercifully afforded, to rise above the fears, doubts and reasonings which often harass my mind, and to express the desire I felt for the encouragement of such.

"WE ARE AS SAFE AT SEA,—SAFER IN THE STORM THAT GOD SENDS US, THAN IN A CALM, WHEN WE ARE BEFRIENDED BY THE WORLD."

Hast thou heard the loud roar of the turbulent ocean,
When the wintry wind over its bosom has passed,
When the angry waves raged in their wildest commotion,
And death seemed to ride on the wings of the blast?

Hast thou seen the frail bark in that moment of anguish,
Now aloft on the billow, now whelmed in the surge,
When the hopes of the hard-toiling mariner languish,
And the hollow gale sounds in his ear like a dirge?

'Tis the moment of mercy,—his efforts all failing,
She appears, and the tempest subsides at her will;—
Her voice, o'er the tumult of waves, is prevailing,
As she breathes the soft accents of,—Peace! be ye still.

Go on then, thou sea-beaten vessel; and borrow
New light from this darkness, new hope from this fear,
Let thy peril to-day, teach thee trust for to-morrow,
In storm or in sunshine, thy Saviour is near.

1*st of Ninth Month.*

Tenth Month 8th, Fifth-day. A long time has elapsed since the last memorandum was made. How has it been spent?—is a very natural and important inquiry. Many things have been done, but how does the account stand with regard to the one thing needful. Humble thyself, O my soul! into the dust; put on the garments of penitence and prayer, if so be thou mayst find mercy with the Lord, who "is a God of knowledge, and by Him, actions are weighed." Where, in the hour of adversity and conflict, has been thy faith in his good providence, where, thy dependence on his unerring wisdom, power and love? Hast thou not often murmured in the day of trial, when the wilderness journey seemed long and painful; when there was a breaking of the whole staff of bread, and a taking away the whole stay of water, in a spiritual sense; when the heaven above was veiled from thy view, and the earth around looked full of danger and difficulty? Remember the example of Israel of old, and thank God that He hath not left thee to perish in this state; that

thou hast still some touches of his love, some feeble desires after the way of life and salvation. It is indeed a day of trial and proving, a day of humiliation and treading down, wherein this language is often feelingly adopted, "I am as a wonder unto many." Oh! that there may be a capacity to go on with the psalmist, and say, "but Thou art my strong refuge."

22*nd*, *Fifth-day*. The prayer of my heart is, when capable of any aspiration towards the fountain of all good, that we may be kept in the right way; that in things temporal, we may know our steps to be ordered of the Lord; that we may not, in our own will, choose a path, or in any degree, take ourselves out of the leadings of best wisdom, but, with the simplicity of faith, follow the little light that may be mercifully afforded, and wait patiently for its further discoveries, not distrusting the care and tender mercy of our compassionate Father.

Twelfth Month 1*st*, *Third-day*. Went to Taunton, to attend our Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders. It was small, but not altogether without something of that uniting influence, which is not at our own command. My dear aunt, M. H. spoke a few words near the conclusion, expressive of her desire that all might be enabled to keep their places in the body, and by faithfulness in all things, be strengthened themselves and become a strength to others. A short vocal petition in unison with this communication, was afterwards offered. Proceeded, in the afternoon, to Bridgewater. There, we had the pleasure of meeting our dear friend Isaac Stephenson, who came with a certificate to visit several of the south-western counties. In the evening, attended the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, and were favoured with a very lively communication from I. S. It was a small meeting, several friends being absent, who usually take their seats in it. We lodged at the hotel, where was a company of nearly forty, at supper; most of the number, young people. It was a quiet, comfortable evening; before we retired, a chapter in the testament was read, and a few words were offered in supplication for the divine blessing.

2*nd*, *Fourth-day*. The Quarterly Meeting was a time of renewed favour, from that gracious Lord who is pleased to minister to the spiritual necessities of his people. Dear I. S. laboured

abundantly in word and doctrine, to the comfort and encouragement of some drooping spirits.

6*th*, *First-day*. "We will walk as the Lord may please, only let it be near Him, the eternal, faithful, living Saviour." These words, uttered by the pious and aged Vander Smissen during the moments which preceded his death, have forcibly recurred to my remembrance, many times this day. They appear to express, in great sweetness and simplicity, that child-like desire which ought to be felt by every true christian. It is of little consequence in what path we are led, if it be according to the will of God, and if we are favoured with the soul-refreshing and sustaining company of the blessed Saviour. This may not always imply the sensible enjoyment of his presence, because we have reason to believe, the Lord is often peculiarly near to his afflicted children, when they feel most destitute and deserted, when, in the bitterness and anguish of their hearts, they are ready to conclude, their way is hidden from the Lord,—their judgment passed over from their God. To these tossed and tempted souls, He is graciously pleased at times to reveal Himself, as the God of all comfort, when refuge fails them and fears are on every side. Thus may it be, through the greatness of heavenly love and mercy, with some of us who are cast down very low, and are often ready to faint by the way!

13*th*, *First-day*. Soon after we sat down in meeting this morning, my mind was attracted to the consideration of that declaration of the apostle: "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;" and ability was given, to speak a little on the great subject of redemption by Jesus Christ.

31*st*, *Fifth-day*. This being the last day of the year, I feel desirous of recording some of the thoughts and feelings, the return of the season has produced, though my mind has been of late in a state that has much indisposed me for writing. Perplexity, confusion and dismay have often surrounded me on every side, and made me ready to say, "The waters are come in unto my soul;" and, in this tossing of the vessel on an agitated sea, there has seemed hardly faith enough left, to raise the suppliant cry to that gracious God, whose all-powerful word controls the winds and waves. Oh! for a grain, though never so small, of that

efficacious faith, which enabled the apostle to look beyond the things which are seen. The christian traveller is instructed by his great Lord, to leave caring for the morrow ; but how difficult he often finds this lesson, notwithstanding the innumerable proofs he has received of the faithfulness of his gracious and merciful Father, and of his own utter incapacity to do any good thing for himself, without the divine assistance and blessing ! Lord ! teach me to rest in thy blessed will, and to believe heartily in thy consoling promise, that all things shall work together for good, to those who love and fear Thee.

The past year has been one of peculiar trials ; but may we not, in the awful moment of its departure, in numbering it with the years that are fled never to return, acknowledge, with humble gratitude, that goodness and mercy have followed us through its eventful course ; and from the remembrance of its trials and its mercies, its sorrows and its joys, derive a hope, that in the yet unknown scenes of the future, we may be sustained of Him who was afflicted in all the afflictions of his people, and the Angel of whose presence saved them ;—who enables them to take sweet delight and refreshment, in the many blessings He showers down upon them, and thankfully to acknowledge, that He giveth them richly all things to enjoy.

CHAPTER IX.

1830—1833. Reflections—Visits to the poor—Establishment of Provident Society—W. and M. Smith—Birth of a son—Memoranda—Quarterly Meeting—Religious visit to Devon and Cornwall—Death of her sister-in-law—Religious service in Bristol—Reflections on birth-day—Illness and death of her husband's mother.

1830. *First Month 13th, Fourth-day.* Two weeks of this year are already past, and what am I doing? I fear little, besides paying daily attention to the concerns of our own family, and this, not in that spirit and disposition which are likely to be accompanied by the best blessing. My health has not been good since the severity of the winter set in; and the mind partaking in the infirmities of its frail companion, in addition to its own, has been weak, unsteady, and often disquieted; suffering little things to take too deep hold on it, and to engross those thoughts and faculties which are designed for more important occupation. Divine love and power only, can recall the wanderings of our unstable nature, and settle us on the true centre; but we ought constantly to make this the object of our watchfulness unto prayer. How much good we lose, and how much evil we bring upon ourselves, for want of this! The scripture says, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is staid on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee." It is only to bring this promise home to our consciences, and we shall immediately see, what poor, vacillating creatures we are. We sometimes fancy we do trust, and we talk of faith and patience; but, alas! to how little purpose! Where, as regards ourselves, is that peace which would result from repose in the divine will? If we were kept in this peace, which does, indeed, pass understanding, should we be moved with every trifling incident; or would it be in the power of everything and anything (sometimes almost nothing) to betray us into thoughts and expressions, which are unworthy the nobility of the christian character? These are humiliating reflections, but such as we must often find forced upon us, if we are, in any

degree, attentive to what passes within. Still, if there be but something of that struggle kept up between the power of divine grace and the corruptions of nature, which animated the breast of the apostle, when he exclaimed, "Oh, wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" there is hope for us, because we know that all those who faithfully maintain it, shall finally receive the victory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. In the mean time, oh, my soul! retire thou into thy strong-hold; seek to be covered with the whole armour of light, and, above all, to be clothed with humility and true meekness. Seek rather the lowly posture of the suppliant, than the triumph of the conqueror. *Thy Lord hath conquered*, and it is enough that thou abide in Him; waiting patiently for the day when He shall say, "to the prisoners, Go forth, and to them that are in darkness, Show yourselves." Hath He not power over all the host of his enemies? Hath He not power to bind the prince of darkness, at his pleasure? He hath himself instructed us, "that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;" and He closes his parable with this expostulation and promise: "Shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily."

17*th*, *First-day.* Had the company of Joseph Clarke and his wife at our meeting; they are engaged in paying a visit to the families of Friends here. J. C. spoke, for a short time, on the subject of love to God, to which I felt constrained to make some addition, my mind having been much occupied in similar considerations.

18*th*, *Second-day.* Our dear friends above-mentioned, visited us this morning, much to our comfort. J. C. was led, in a very instructive manner, to trace the mercy and goodness of God, in his various dispensations towards his children. It was a time of strengthening and confirmation to our drooping spirits.

21*st*, *Fifth-day.* My turn to visit the sick poor, for the Benevolent Society. The sufferings of our indigent neighbours during this severe winter, make me very solicitous that I may be found a faithful steward of the supplies granted by a bountiful Providence; that I may ever bear in mind, they were given for good purposes, not to be thoughtlessly lavished in unnecessary indul-

gences, or trifling gratifications, but that I may diligently occupy with them, as a part of the talents for which I must render an account.

24*th*, *First-day.* In the evening, some little circumstances occurred, rather ruffling to my feelings; but in a precious time of retirement with my dear S., I found some access to the fountain of saving help, and was strengthened to look to the one great Helper of our infirmities.

25*th*, *Second day.* Morning very closely occupied, having many applications from the poor to attend to. It is a great comfort, to be enabled, in any degree, to relieve their wants, or soothe the sufferings which seem meted out in large measure to some of them. When the spirits are, at times, ready to sink, under the acute sense of what they have to endure, how cordial is the assurance, that "the same Lord over all, is rich unto all that call upon Him."

26*th*, *Third-day.* I think I may say, the prayer of my heart is, to be clothed with humility, and with that genuine meekness which is its natural fruit. Undoubtedly, it is the pride of our own hearts, which makes us so acutely alive to the least degree of hauteur, observable in the carriage of others towards us. This is my infirmity; a word, almost a look, will at times produce quite a struggle with myself, to recover that serenity so valuable to the christian. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus," who "made Himself of no reputation," was the recommendation of the apostle to the primitive believers. Lord! give us more of this mind, we pray Thee, that in all things, self may be subdued, and thy power only be magnified, through thy infinite grace and mercy, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

27*th*, *Fourth-day.* Wrote to our dear friend, Daniel Wheeler, at Petersburgh. This family, exiled from their friends and cut off from the social pleasures in which they once participated, have strong claims on the sympathy of those who are surrounded with outward advantages. But, though they are planted in the midst of a wilderness, naturally and spiritually, they are under the gracious notice of that universal Providence which is extended to all lands, and are also, I can fully believe, subjects of that divine grace which is a sun and shield.

29*th*, *Sixth-day.* I daily feel, more and more, the necessity of seeking to be hid in the covert of true humility,—of retiring into low and secret places, in the time of danger, that the shafts of the archer may fly harmless over our heads. Oh! the preciousness of being kept in the munitions of rocks, where the gracious Lord still gives a morsel of living bread to his afflicted ones, and where their water, through his merciful provision for them, is sure. "Little children, abide in Him," is the exhortation of the beloved disciple, when he enforces the love of God in Christ. This is the attainment after which my soul longs. Who is he that shall harm us, if we so abide?

Second Month 20*th*, *Seventh-day.* Occupied a good deal, with preparations for the establishment of our Provident Society, though my mind, from a variety of causes, is not very much disposed for any new effort. Oh, the burden of an unresigned spirit! When shall I learn the lesson of filial confidence and submission?

22*nd*, *Second-day.* In a very unprofitable state of mind; scattered from the place of true rest, though not without a desire to be gathered by the crook of the good Shepherd. Surely, if our minds were strongly impressed with the uncertainty of all earthly things, and the certain approach of that period, when they must pass away as a vision, we should not suffer ourselves to be so absorbed in trifles, or busied in things of little moment, compared with the one thing needful. Lord! so teach me to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom.

26*th*, *Sixth-day.* A fatiguing day. I felt, from a variety of causes, much depressed, and far from that state of serenity and quiet trust, which bespeaks a mind staid on God. The outward and inward prospect is, at present, wearing a clouded aspect, and it is difficult to come to that resignation which is breathed in the beautiful language of the prophet, "Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines,"—"yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

28*th*, *First-day.* In our morning meeting, S—s was largely engaged in gospel communication, on the text, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." He enlarged upon it with much force and clearness, and addressed

the language of invitation and consolation, to different states amongst us.

Third Month 7th, First-day. In our meeting this morning, there was a feeling in my heart towards some deeply tried and discouraged state, and a degree of ability was afforded, to speak a word of consolation to such.

Fourth Month 30th, Sixth-day. Our dear friends, W. and M. Smith, from Doncaster, were at a meeting with Friends of this place. They are our guests, which is a great pleasure to my sister and myself, being old acquaintances of our honoured parents. M. S., is wonderfully carried through her great exertions, considering the weak state of her worn-down frame. Her communication, in our meeting, was very striking, and remarkably adapted to some states present. In the evening, the reading meeting was held in its usual course, after which, the spring of gospel communication was again opened, to the comfort and refreshment of some afflicted souls.

Fifth Month 1st, Seventh-day. After our morning reading, our dear friend, M. S., was led to address my beloved husband, in a truly remarkable manner, she being very much a stranger to him, before this short visit at our house. It humbled my heart in deep gratitude to that gracious God, who is pleased, when He sees meet, to administer to the wants of his children. Although for purposes of his own unsearchable wisdom, He may, for the most part, keep them in a dry and thirsty land; yet, blessed be his holy name! his is the key of David, and when He is pleased to open the spring of heavenly consolation, no man can shut. May our spirits be refreshed, and may we be enabled to go forward with renewed confidence, in the race set before us!

9th, First-day. My mind was much affected, in meeting this morning, by the consideration of time, and its awful uncertainty to us all. Some ability was afforded, to express the desire which prevailed in my heart, that we might be chiefly concerned to know, whether we have a saving faith in Him, who only can guide us safely, over the unstable ocean of life, and bring us, at last, into the peaceful haven of eternal rest.

16th, First-day. This is the anniversary of our marriage, a day to be remembered with humble, reverent gratitude towards

that gracious God, who is the bountiful giver of every good gift; who was pleased, in a remarkable manner, to favour us on that occasion with his presence, and who hath mercifully been near, to support under every trial that has since been permitted us; showering down upon us daily blessings, spiritual and temporal, and cementing our happy union more and more strongly, as time passes on. What shall we render unto Thee, O Lord! for all thy benefits? is, I trust, the secret prayer of our souls.

18*th*, *Third-day.* We have been reading the "Life of T. Charles," of Bala; a very interesting and instructive work. He was indeed an eminent example of christian virtues, and, in his excellent papers, now presented to the public, "he, being dead, yet speaketh."

19*th*, *Fourth-day.* Our dear boy quite poorly to-day, with a cold; he daily grows in understanding, but with the unfolding capacity, the will strengthens also. Oh! for strength and wisdom, to regulate and subdue that which should be subjected. The great step to this, must be the reduction of it in myself, and a constant seeking after the spirit of faith and prayer.

24*th*, *Second-day.* My spirits have been rather low, the last few days, but a little encouraged this evening, in that exhortation of the psalmist, "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage and He shall strengthen thine heart; wait, I say, on the Lord." Lord! teach me so to wait, daily, at thy footstool, not in the spirit of a slavish fear, but with humble, childlike confidence, fully trusting thy fatherly goodness, power and love. Thou wilt suffer no actual evil to befal those who place their whole reliance on Thee; nothing, but what, sanctified by Thee, shall work for their good: every trial, every difficulty, every temptation may be converted into blessing by thy all-subduing grace.

25*th*, *Third-day.* My mind is in a state of listlessness this morning; indolent as to the best pursuits. Oh! that it may be quickened in the divine fear, and brought to the place of true, inward, secret prayer. We must gather the manna daily, if we would be fed with soul-sustaining food.

26*th*, *Fourth-day.* Did not go to our meeting this morning. I was favoured to feel a degree of quiet, in my retirement at home, though very poor and stripped. If the inward life be but pre-

served, these low seasons ought to be received with thankfulness, because they are calculated to deepen our experience of the utter incapacity of the natural man, to advance himself in the way of holiness. Truly, our help cometh only from the Lord, who made heaven and earth, and whose power can call into existence, things that are not, to the praise and glory of his own great name. The entire passiveness of the will, is what He calls for in his children. If they are sufficiently subject, He will work for them, to his own glory, and their eternal well being. So work in our souls, we beseech Thee, O Lord! for thine is the power; to Thee be all the praise, now and for ever!

30*th*, *First-day*. Not at meeting, and I fear the solitude it afforded, has not been improved as it ought to have been. Alas! how prone we are to give way to unprofitable thoughts, agitations and anxieties; to busy ourselves with anything rather than the one thing needful. The review of the day does not afford me much satisfaction, and yet now, in the evening of it, a degree of precious quiet is mercifully permitted to overspread my spirit, and the cry of supplication rises to that gracious God, who can deliver from all evil. Be pleased, O Lord! I humbly beseech Thee, to strengthen me with a little help from thy sanctuary, to be near in the time of peculiar need, and enable my soul to lay hold of thy mercy, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Saviour of his people.

To E. S—h.

Wellington, *Sixth Month 4th*, 1830.

My very dear Friend,

. . . . . There are some parts of thy letter on which I could dwell, with feelings of tender and pensive delight. The allusion to one, whose memory is deeply engraven in our affections, touched a responding chord in the hearts of my dear sister and myself. She is one of the dead, whose remembrance is blessed, and her pious example has left a sweet fragrance behind it. I love to think of her circumspect walking, and the earnestness of her desire to be found in the path of duty, and can feelingly re-echo the desire thou expressest, to be clothed with the same spirit of humility and godly fear. I often recur to the last

precious opportunity we had of her company, in that beautiful spot from which her ransomed spirit took its flight, we most fully believe, to the paradise of love, and light and joy. Perhaps, the loss of such dear and deservedly cherished ties, is felt even more and more, at times, as the current of years rolls on, and successive scenes in the journey of life, show us very forcibly their value; but how much is there to reconcile us to a change so unspeakably advantageous for them, and how abundantly does the bountiful Giver of all good gifts, continue to surround us who remain behind, with the continual proofs of his providential care and mercy, in the blessings bestowed on us; blessings, that I have no doubt, we mutually feel, call loudly for the daily acknowledgment of humble gratitude and praise. . . . . .

M. S. F.

Sixth Month 5th, Seventh-day. My spirits, to-day, a good deal tried from various causes. Oh! what need have I of the hourly support of the great and gracious Preserver! "Hold Thou me up, and I shall be safe, and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually," is the pious prayer and holy resolution of the psalmist. Oh! that it were the daily and hourly petition of my soul.

15th, Third-day. I have now to commemorate, with admiring, adoring gratitude, the merciful kindness of my Heavenly Father, who has added, to all the temporal blessings showered down upon us, the sweet gift which it must be now our delightful care, to rear as a tender lamb entrusted to us by the great Shepherd of the sheep. A great variety of mingled emotions fill my mind, at this interesting period; but I believe the predominant one, is that of deep, heartfelt gratitude to the God and Father of all our mercies. I have been mercifully favoured with a secret support beyond all human aid, and the words of one of the Olney Hymns, have been frequently brought to my remembrance:—

"Upon my promise, rest thy hope,
And keep my love in view,
I stand engaged to bear thee up
And bring thee safely through."

16*th*, *Fourth-day.* We are deeply impressed with the importance of having a religiously disposed person, to take charge of our precious children, one who will make it her care, to guard their tender minds from everything that is of an evil tendency, and to cherish the sweet impressions of heavenly love, which are often felt at a very early age. I have earnestly desired, we may be favoured to find one, who has the divine fear before her eyes, and the subject has cost me much thoughtfulness in my watchful hours; but whilst endeavouring to commit these lambs into the best keeping, a sweet serenity overspread my mind, accompanied with the belief, that the Lord will provide for us in this respect also.

18*th*, *Sixth-day.* My soul bows, in humble gratitude, before the Lord, for all the blessings He has been pleased to bestow on me and mine. Surely, we may say, "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness." Oh! that we may be stimulated by the review of past and present mercies, to a more earnest pursuit after that highest of all blessings, a spiritual communion with God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant us, O Lord! we beseech Thee, the spirit of grace and of supplications, that we may walk watchfully in thy fear, and be conformed to thy holy will. Enable us to devote ourselves and our all to thy disposal; and Oh! be pleased, we pray Thee, to take our precious children into thy good keeping; sanctify them through thy truth, and preserve them from the evils of this sinful world. Strengthen us with holy resolution, to check whatever is of a hurtful tendency, and to cherish the precious seed of thy kingdom sown in their hearts. As thou wert with our dear, departed parents, so be Thou, we pray Thee, with *their* children and *our* children, that we may be finally united, through thy tender mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord, before thy throne of glory, and eternally ascribe all praises unto Thee.

19*th*, *Seventh-day.* Feeling very low to-day, after a poor night. Oh! for a more humble, resigned, submissive temper! This disposition, we are bound to cultivate, in our small as well as in great trials. "The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak."

20*th*, *First-day.* In the retirement of my chamber, an earnest desire has been raised in my heart, that in returning to the vari-

ous cares and duties of life, if that be permitted, I may constantly endeavour to seek for daily strength from the Fountain of all strength, that I may dwell deep in my spirit, and retire frequently as into the cleft of the rock, where the Lord nourishes the faith of the lowly ones, with food which the world knows not of. This only can preserve us, poor, erring creatures as we are, from the many snares of our soul's enemy, and from that state of agitation and disquietude, which is so naturally produced by the pressure of a crowd of engagements, many of them, perhaps, trifling in themselves, yet nevertheless, appearing more or less as duties. May I, more and more, strive after the pious disposition of Mary, who, instead of being careful and troubled about many things, chose the one thing needful, that better part, which, her Lord declared, should never be taken from her.

23*rd*, *Fourth-day*. It is, I trust, under feelings of lively gratitude to the great Giver of all blessings, that I am now going down stairs, to spend this evening in our usual sitting-room. Oh! that the gradual return to family cares and duties, may be marked by a constant and unremitting endeavour after the enjoyment of that which is most excellent,—spiritual and secret communion with the Source of all good. I have been much led, of late, to a close review of my conduct, as the mistress of a family; and my many deficiencies, as to the proper and diligent exercise of care for the religious improvement of my servants, have been painfully felt. I have long considered it as a very serious responsibility, to be entrusted with a sort of moral guardianship, over persons, whose habits and modes of thinking are often so different, in many respects, from those we would wish them to entertain and adhere to, and I have found it very difficult to satisfy my own mind, as to the point at which authority should interpose, without an infringement of that liberty which is the right of all. I greatly desire that I may be enabled to watch over my own deportment, so as to give them no occasion of stumbling, and have firmness sufficient to admonish and restrain them, in the spirit of meekness, whenever I see anything that tends to their hurt.

27*th*, *First-day*. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." This exhortation of the apostle to the

early converts, is replete with encouragement, to persevere in daily and hourly application to the great Author of all spiritual gifts and graces. Surely, it is our own fault, if we do not receive wisdom for our guidance in the path of duty, and strength to press forward in the heavenly race, seeing it is thus freely offered to those who sincerely seek it. Suffer me not, O Lord! to lean on my own strength, which is perfect weakness, but rather may I depend upon Thee and Thee alone, for constant supplies of that which may enable me to walk before Thee, in reverence and godly fear, and to maintain a steady endeavour, to train up our children and servants in a religious life and conversation.

29*th*, *Third-day.* The good and gracious Creator, who formed our bodily and mental frame, only knows the depth and extent of their frailty, infirmity and weakness; and his power alone, can give increase of strength to those who have no might of their own. May I be frequent and fervent in application to that God who can do all things for us; and who hath taught us, in the Scriptures, to believe that He will keep them in perfect peace, whose minds are staid on Him. Oh! blessed and delightful assurance! confirmed by our adorable Saviour, when He said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you."—Amen: blessed Lord! grant us a portion of this peace, we beseech Thee, and then all those things we now consider as trials, shall be sweetened, and shall work together for our good.

30*th*, *Fourth-day.* In the evening, read some account of the late king, which interested me greatly. It appears, that for some weeks past, he has been aware of the probable termination of his accumulated illness; and that he remained in full possession of his mental faculties to the last. May we not trace, in this protracted and severe struggle, the merciful hand of a long-suffering and compassionate God, seeking, by the dispensation of heavy chastening, to bring this gay and thoughtless prince to a sense of his real condition; to impress him fully with the solemn truth, that the rich and the poor, the mighty and the ignoble, must all descend into the narrow tomb,—"the house appointed for all living," and, that after death cometh the judgment, when all shall stand before the tribunal of Him, whose eyes are as a flame of fire. The all-searching eye can only fully estimate the extent

and compass of the temptations, the degree of moral danger, to which they are exposed, who are born within the circle of a court, and who have to pass the inexperienced days of childhood and youth, in its contagious and contaminating atmosphere. And, whilst we are bound to believe, that if humbly sought for and believed in, the measure of heavenly grace would be proportioned to the difficulty and magnitude of the struggle, may we not conclude, the divine forbearance is also great towards those who fail in such a tremendous ordeal, and that they are followed by the convictions of the Holy Spirit, if happily they may be brought to turn, though at the eleventh hour, at the reproofs of instruction.

Seventh Month 6th, Third-day. Oh! that I may be enabled to retire into the secret place of safety, when the shafts of the cruel archer fly around. I am sorely tried and tempted, at times, by the enemy, who seeks to avail himself of the quick sensibility of my nature, in order to ruffle and disturb that serenity of mind which ought to be maintained by the true christian. O, gracious Lord! cover us, I beseech Thee, with that impenetrable shield, which can repel all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Grant, that we may be clad in thy whole armour of light, that so, no deadly wound may be received, but that, through the power of thy all-sufficient grace, we may be preserved blameless and harmless.

11th, First-day. After supper, at the family reading, I felt most easy to impart to our servants, something of the concern I had long felt for their spiritual welfare, endeavouring to direct their attention to that Saviour, who died for the sins of the whole world. My dear sister also addressed them, and a petition was afterwards offered, on their behalf and our own.

12th, Second-day. This is the anniversary of the day, on which my tenderly beloved and honoured father departed this life. The scenes of his last days, have been vividly present to my mind of late, and are attended now with a poignancy of feeling, it is impossible for words to pourtray. Sixteen years have passed away, since he entered into rest! how many events have marked their course to his children! To him and our ever precious mother, gathered before him into the heavenly garner, years are no more, but one eternal day of peace, and love, and joy. Lord! prepare us for a blessed re-union in thy kingdom, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

13*th*, *Third-day.* Our Monthly Meeting; at which my beloved sister laid before her friends, a prospect she has long had, of paying a religious visit to some of the meetings of Friends in Essex. It obtained solid consideration, and a certificate was ordered to be brought to our next Monthly Meeting. It was a time of deep feeling to myself, on many accounts. It is a real comfort, that my beloved sister has been strengthened to make this surrender, after many deep conflicts and discouragements, known fully, I believe, to none, but to that gracious God who seeth in secret, and who, I cannot doubt, will be near, to sustain her through the arduous work, and enable her, in the end, to acknowledge, that his grace is sufficient for all those who depend simply upon it.

18*th*, *First-day.* In our meeting, this morning, a petition arose in my heart, that we might know all the trials and sorrows of this present state sanctified to us, and that when the hand of the Lord is laid upon us, for our chastening, we may be humbled, under it, and be willing to hear "the rod, and look to Him who hath appointed it."

21*st*, *Fourth-day.* Went to our Quarterly Meeting, at Taunton. Sat the meeting for worship, under feelings of deep discouragement, as to my own state. Towards the conclusion, my dear sister addressed us, at some length, very instructively; and if she had been able to do it earlier, I might have seen more clearly, what was right for myself. These meetings are generally times of considerable suffering to me. The fear of improperly stepping forward, and of interfering with the service of others, who may be under preparation to minister, often makes me backward to give utterance to any little feeling that may arise, and yet, I have at times found, the withholding more than is meet, tends to poverty. It is, indeed, a fearful thing, to be engaged in this way in the public assemblies, and I believe there is great safety in endeavouring to preserve, as much as may be, a state of inward watchfulness and silence; but when the smallest offering is required, by that God who has an undoubted right to whatever we can render, it is our part to obey,—not to question or reason on the fitness of things. May I be instructed in all things, and learn more simplicity of faith!

To S. W.

Teignmouth, *Tenth Month 4th*, 1830.

My beloved S. W.

I feel as if I could not well refrain from addressing thee once more, by a name so dear to me, though I have no fear that its exchange for a new one, will, in any degree, weaken the force of that tender attachment, which binds thee to my heart; but, on the contrary, that it will open enlarged channels of interest, and may, some day, be the means of introducing me to a new and valuable acquaintance. Yet, as the day which is to mark an important era in the life of my beloved cousin, is nearly approaching, my thoughts turn to her with lively interest, and it is pleasant to offer her the salutation of cordial love and good wishes. That it may be to thee and thy dear friend, whose happiness and welfare is henceforth to be one with thy own, a day owned by divine favour,—a day on which you may look back with grateful hearts, in years to come, is my sincere desire. May the blessing of the Lord rest upon you, my precious S.! and the heavenly dew descend around your dwelling; may you be made true help-meets to each other, and, by your mutual dedication of heart, as well as by the depth and sincerity of your attachment, be made one another's joy in the Lord. Trials, we must all meet with, in the most favoured allotment; and it is well for us that it should be so, or these poor, earth-bound spirits would cling yet more closely to the things of time, and be in danger of losing their hold on those blessed hopes, which are the earnest of a brighter inheritance. But what an unspeakable comfort it is, that when we resign ourselves into the divine hand, we are favoured at times, to see that the cup of life is mingled by marvellous wisdom, and that all its variety of ingredients are sweetened with the abundance of mercy, to the souls that trust in God; so that the changes of circumstances and dispensations, instead of driving these from their anchor, serve only to enlarge their experience, and confirm their faith in that almighty Power, which "is the same yesterday and to-day, and forever;" and they are enabled, as they pass along their earthly pilgrimage, again and again to make the thankful acknowledgment, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." Well, my dear cousin, I trust this may be your

happy state, and that you will be strengthened, and strengthen each other, to stand nobly for the Lord's cause, in that large meeting, of which you will be members; where the exercises of the faithful servants must be many. We know, however, that these, though they may often feel themselves a faint and feeble remnant, are not sent on a warfare at their own charges, but are under the immediate care and keeping of their great and gracious Leader, who will, as they are faithful to all his requirings, cover them with his shield, and will finally give them the victory. . . . . .

From thy very nearly attached and interested,

MARIA S. FOX.

To M. W.

Wellington, *Second Month 26th*, 1831.

. . . . . Soon after this, thy poor cousins expect to set out on their western journey. You will not wonder that we have been brought very low in the prospect of this engagement; but since it was cast before our friends, we have been favoured with a quiet, peaceful feeling in respect to it; and though deeply sensible that in our "house is neither bread nor clothing," we desire to trust the future, and that good hand, which, when it is opened in mercy, can satisfy the desire of every living thing. One thing connected with this subject, I must mention, because I know it will interest you considerably. A most unexpected letter from our dear friend, Daniel Wheeler, informs us, that he has laid before his Monthly Meeting, a concern to visit the meetings of Devonshire and Cornwall, and obtained its full unity. After taking this public step, he had some conversation with J. F., who was there, and from him, heard that we were similarly bound. He therefore writes to propose our uniting, so far as our views may be found to correspond, and speaks of coming direct from Sheffield to Wellington, in order to set forward together. You will be sure we consider it a favour, to have the prospect of such a companion in any part of the journey; and it is matter of rejoicing, that this dear friend should be drawn out in this way, during his temporary residence in England. Thou knowest, we talked of writing to invite him to

Wellington, but never did so, and little thought of being banded with him in this manner. . . . . .

Thy affectionate cousin,

MARIA S. FOX.

To M. W.

Wellington, *Fourth Month 26th*, 1831.

. . . . . Sympathy towards my dear M. is a prevalent feeling with me, because I know the circumstances under which you are now placed, are such as cannot fail to bring thee at times as into deep waters, but I trust there are moments, when thou art enabled to repose in the firm belief, that all these trials shall ultimately work together for good, through faith in Him, who "is able to do exceeding abundantly" for us. Dear E.'s kind letter met us at Falmouth, and came at a very seasonable juncture, when we were brought very low, under the pressure of a visit to the families in that place. Thou wilt believe, it was a humiliating work, and wilt not wonder, we were cast down in the prospect, and not less so, perhaps, in the performance ; but though it was for the most part a laborious, and we were sometimes ready to conclude, an unavailing, exercise, we were favoured, in some of the visits, with that precious refreshment which is not at our command. It was rather close work to get through before the Quarterly Meeting, which was at Falmouth, on the 13th inst. Then, as well as in a part of the family visit, we were favoured with the company of our dear friend, D. Wheeler, who returned safely from the Scilly Isles. He had an interesting, and I believe, satisfactory visit to the poor inhabitants of these islands, who are often exposed to great sufferings, from their precarious mode of life. They are chiefly dependent for support, on fishing and the piloting of vessels, and as the latter do not visit them much, except when driven by stress of weather, it is mostly through the *perils* of the deep they earn their scanty subsistence. There appears great openness to receive the gospel message, and it is, I think, cause of thankfulness, that one so qualified to feel for them, has been sent. I trust our dear friend will have cause to look back with comfort, on his journey through the western counties, when it

may once more be his lot to be a solitary exile. It has been particularly acceptable to have his company, and to observe the humility and weightiness of his deportment. On reviewing the time we were together, we feel it a peculiar privilege to have been so associated, and desire we may lastingly profit by the opportunity. Before we left Falmouth, we were unitedly bound to a public meeting there. The notice was pretty much confined to the seamen and persons connected with the vessels,—a numerous class, it being the port at which the government packets are chiefly stationed. It was a large meeting, principally composed of the description of persons intended, and we had cause humbly to acknowledge the extension of best help. After this, we parted with dear D. W. for a time. He went to Barnstaple to visit the few Friends there, and had also a large public meeting in the Methodist chapel. We went to the meetings of Truro, Austle and Wadebridge, where we had not before been, and met him again at Exeter. The Quarterly Meeting for Devonshire, was held there on the 20th, and the following day, we came to a meeting with the little company at Spiceland. On the same evening, we reached our own home, and had the unspeakable comfort of finding our dear sister and the sweet children, pretty well. . . . .

Thy affectionate cousin,

Maria S. Fox.

Sixth Month 5th. Nearly a year has elapsed, since a memorandum was written. How that year has passed, and what are the traces left on my mind by its various events, is an inquiry of awful importance. At the present time, the power of temptation is strongly felt, and many are my tears and secret cries, that the Lord, who is almighty to deliver, would rebuke the devourer, for the sake of that adorable Redeemer, who was "manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." Oh! thou Father of mercies and God of all comfort, make known thy power in the hearts of the feeblest of thy children; enable me to repose on Thee in faith, to trust all to Thee, and to pray fervently that all the trials of this mixed state, may tend to further thy merciful designs towards my soul, and to prepare it, through thy grace, for "an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not

away," when the few fleeting sands of life are run. Suffer not the enemy of our souls' happiness, to draw me off from those duties which are the business of every day, by delusive presentations of what may be more specious; but guard me, O Lord! on the right hand and on the left, and keep me from the paths of the destroyer.

To M. W.

Wellington, *Eleventh Month 29th*, 1831.

. . . . . The state of my spirits during the last few days, has been rather unfavourable to a congratulatory strain, having been called to participate much in the feelings of our dear C. and S., who have had to resign their precious child, at a very short notice. We all feel it, as being the first inroad of the pale messenger upon our infant band; but the conviction that this tender lamb is for ever folded in the arms of the great Shepherd, that he has happily escaped the trials of time, forbids all mourning for him. Still, we cannot but enter into near sympathy with our dear brother and sister, in being so suddenly deprived of a treasure, that was daily becoming more and more endearing. . . . . How many of our dear friends, in almost every direction, have to taste the cup of affliction, and how much is there to awaken us to a consideration of those things which are eternal and unchangeable! But I fear there is little disposition in the minds of the people generally, to humble themselves before the Lord, even now, when the rod of his judgments is so evidently uplifted.* We have, as a nation, experienced the long-suffering and forbearance of our God, and who can marvel, if it should be given us to drink of the wine of his indignation! I am afraid, my dear, thou wilt think I am dwelling very long on mournful cogitations. In a time like the present, it seems as if those who commune together of the state of the world and the church, must be sad; but we know there is One on high, who is mightier than the noise of many waters, and who ruleth the raging of the sea. That He will carry forward his own great and glorious purposes through all, we cannot doubt; and however the potsherds of the earth may

* This alludes to the visitation of the cholera.

strive together, or there may be distress of nations and great perplexity, the time will ultimately come, when "the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills." To his good keeping and safe guidance may we be enabled to commend ourselves and each other. . . . . .

Thy tenderly attached,

M. S. Fox.

To E. T—s.

Wellington, *First Month 2nd*, 1832.

My dear Cousin,

I believe thou wilt excuse my not having used an earlier post, to reply to thy kind inquiries; having had, within the past week, various claims on my attention, amidst the afflicted circle around us. It was, however, truly cordial, to receive a few lines from one, who is so well qualified to sympathize in our sorrow, and whose affectionate friendship, we value so highly. We have, indeed, had a series of events, of a very striking character, within a short period; and this last bereavement* is deeply felt by us all. The course of our beloved, departed sister, has been swiftly run, and the messenger of her dismission from the cares and duties of a somewhat extensive sphere of usefulness, performed its solemn work with formidable rapidity; but the belief, that her conscientious mind was, as thou sweetly expressest it, "found ready," is unspeakably consoling to us, and enables us, at times, to look beyond the irreparable breach that is made in our family circle, to that blessed state of rest and peace, into which, we humbly believe, her redeemed spirit has entered. Our beloved mother is an example of christian submission, under the acute sense of this heavy stroke. It is really strengthening, to observe her calm deportment, and the support that is afforded to her. We have had an interesting account of the solemn occasion at Newington, on Sixth-day last. It appears to have been a favoured and instructive time. . . . . .

M. S. F.

* The decease of her sister-in-law, A. Sanderson.

In the early part of this year, Maria Fox obtained the sanction of her Monthly Meeting for some religious service, among Friends and others, in the city of Bristol. A few particulars only of this engagement are preserved in the following letter.

To S. F.

Bristol, *Fourth Month* 10*th*, 1832.

My dearest S.

It is quite a pleasure to have a little time, this morning, for conversing with thee, and to look forward to the gratification of receiving a letter to-night, which I hope may convey a good report of my treasures at home. . . . . I must now endeavour to tell thee, how it has fared with me since we parted, as I know thou wilt wish to receive a particular account. That morning, M. S. accompanied me to the Friends' Workhouse, and we paid six visits to its inmates, in their several apartments. It is a truly comfortable place, though in a miserable neighbourhood; the streets near it, filled with ragged, dirty children, whose appearance indicates the deplorable state of an indigent and demoralized population, crowded very thickly together. I was much interested with my visit; it is so pleasant to see the care bestowed on those who inhabit this workhouse, and the comforts such an asylum affords, to such as are in want of friendly aid. In the afternoon, called to see a poor friend and his wife; the husband in a very declining state of health. We next went to the House of Refuge, where M. and L. W. joined us; and we met the poor inmates of the institution, in the room in which they are usually assembled for reading the Scriptures. It was not the evening on which they generally receive visits, but they were all collected, and made a very neat appearance, in a plain, appropriate dress. I cannot tell thee what I felt, in going amongst them. After a short pause, I felt inclined to read to them the fifty-first psalm, and to make some remarks upon it; and it pleased our gracious and compassionate Lord, to furnish ability to set before them, the nature and the dreadful consequences of sin, and to preach freely the word of reconciliation.

Supplication was also made for these poor victims of human depravity, that they might not reject the offers of divine love and mercy. It was an affecting time. . . . . .

We went to meeting yesterday, at the Friars; it was nearly silent, except a few words towards the close. My mind was greatly engaged on a subject, which had occupied it since being at the workhouse, and which I felt most easy to communicate to a few friends after meeting, who entered very feelingly into the (to me) very formidable prospect, of having a meeting with the miserable people, who live around the Friends' Workhouse. Having seen at that institution, a large room used for a First-day school, I mentioned it, supposing there would not be many who would be inclined to attend a meeting; but it was the unanimous judgment of our friends, that the place would be totally inadequate, even if the notice were confined to one street; so it was judged best, to have the Lancasterian School-room. It was thought, if a smaller place were used, it would be difficult to keep any sort of order amongst those who would be excluded, as they are, I believe, the refuse of the city, or at least the lowest class of its inhabitants. Indeed, from their appearance, I quite expected the Friends would be alarmed at the idea of collecting them together; but it was a great comfort that they fully united in the prospect, and expressed their satisfaction, that these poor creatures were likely to be visited. It is, for the present, a relief to me, to have mentioned it. Sixth-day evening, is the time proposed. Thou knowest, my dear S., how grateful it would be to me to have thee here, if it be right; but I do not ask thee to come, because I know thou wilt endeavour to be in the right place, and fear it may not be in thy power. I trust thou wilt be favoured to see what is best about the day for thy coming, and, whatever thy decision may be, I believe I shall be satisfied, because we have sought to know our individual allotment in the present engagement. Thou wilt not wonder, that with the prospect of this meeting, all view of the poor seamen and their floating chapel, is obscured. . . . . Our friends are exceedingly kind, and my way has been made, in a manner which ought to make me very thankful and to humble me greatly. I trust my hard heart has been a little softened by the contriting influence of divine love, since

I came into this city. Oh! that it may be more and more the case! . . . . . .

M. S. F.

Ninth Month, 15th. Since the last memorandum was written, how much has occurred, which ought to have left a deeply instructive impression! The close of 1831, was marked by a series of solemn events, nearly affecting our family circle; and the present year, has, thus far, been replete with circumstances of various interest. My dear sister has had a long and painful confinement to the house, from illness, and my time has been pretty closely occupied. This, and something of a fear lest I should acquire a habit of writing, without sufficiently feeling what is written, has operated to prevent my making memorandums, for some time past; but I feel inclined, this morning, to commemorate, in this way, the goodness of God towards one of the most unworthy. When I reflect on all the mercies we have experienced in the past year, my heart is humbled within me, and in looking towards the future, I feel a degree of calm reliance on the same unfailing arm of power.

I have had great peace in the consideration, which, for some time past, has prevailed in my mind, of the entire nothingness of the human medium, and of the overflowing fulness and sufficiency of the Fountain of all good. The eternal, unchangeable Jehovah, is the source from whence all that can truly comfort or profit his people, must be derived, and when He is pleased to pour the waters of life from this fountain, it is of little importance what channel He may select, for the communication of it. "We are nothing, Christ is all,"—the strength, the wisdom, and the righteousness of his people.

My mind has been much humbled and instructed in the course of some religious engagements, during the present year, and I trust, my faith confirmed in the unchangeable promises of God, who, when He is pleased to operate by his own power, can make the weak things of this world, and things that are despised, subservient to his glory. I have lately seen, very strongly, the necessity of pursuing, in simplicity and with a single eye to the Lord Jesus, our various paths of duty, without reasoning too much on

the sentiments and opinions of others. Far be it from me to undervalue the privilege of christian sympathy; it is so excellent a thing, that I am ready to think I have often suffered from desiring it too strongly; but such is the difference of natural temperament, and such the diversity of gifts, in those who are nevertheless seeking to walk by the same rule and to mind the same thing, that the christian traveller often finds himself disappointed, where he imagines he has some reason to expect a fellow-feeling with his religious exercises. "Looking unto Jesus," is the safest watchword for him. I often compare, (and think I have read such a comparison somewhere,) those who are endeavouring to follow their Lord and Saviour, but whose natural dispositions are dissimilar and their paths of duty various, to a company of vessels sailing from the same port, under one great commander, and bound to the same haven, but from the force of stormy winds, or the prevalence of hazy weather, seldom getting sight of each other during the voyage. If permitted to anchor safely in the port of everlasting rest, how joyfully will they meet in the presence of their Lord; how full, complete and blissful, will be their union, and how contemptible will those things appear, which prevented them from realizing the full enjoyment of it in the world below! Let us endeavour to anticipate this blessed state: the frequent contemplation of it, may have a tendency to strengthen our love, and to give us more of that spirit which is the happiness of saints in heaven.

29*th*. Lord! increase in us the spirit of prayer; give us to know more and more of the spirit of grace and of supplications. "Prayer makes the christian's armour bright," is a sentiment expressed in one of our hymns; but it seems to me, to be, in some sort, the armour itself. What else shall we oppose to the assaults of our common enemy! We have no strength to resist him, in his cruel buffetings, or in his wily and insidious temptations. To pray without ceasing, to cultivate that state of watchful dependence, in which, under all circumstances, we can lift up our hearts to that gracious and compassionate Saviour, who is not only the strength and the wisdom, but the righteousness of his people, is our only safety. What privileges we lose, for want of being more deeply and stedfastly convinced of this!

The following was addressed to a young friend, on the loss of a near relative.

"It is well."—2 Kings iv. 26.

It is well, in the guidance of infinite love,
It is well, in the counsels of God only wise,
It is well with the soul, whose best hopes are above,
Whose thoughts all aspire to a home in the skies.

'Tis true, we 've a changeable climate below ;
We have sunshine and storm, parching drought and cool showers ;
On our spring-time of promise, the wintry winds blow,
To blight our fair fruits, and to scatter our flowers.

The bud, that before us in loveliness blows,
Sheds its delicate leaves on our path, and is o'er ;
The tree, in whose covert we loved to repose,
Bows its head to the spoiler, and shades us no more.

But the sunbeam, that painted that beautiful flower,
The soft dews, that nurtured that shadowing tree,
Retain all their freshness, their warmth and their power,
An unchangeable promise secures them to me.

Shall I mourn then ? oh, yes ! but I may not repine ;
It is well, in the counsels of infinite love ;
It is well, when my choicest delights I resign
To the all-perfect will of my Father above.

I weep,—but in sorrow's most desolate hour,
My Saviour is nigh, and He sees all my tears ;
In the cloud of my grief, though it heavily lower,
The soul-cheering bow of his mercy appears.

It is well ! the fair symbol of covenant grace,
The pledge of God's truth to the feeble in heart,
The mountains shall tremble, the rocks leave their place,
Ere his word shall be broken, his kindness depart.

Press on then, my soul, be thou stedfast till death,
No perishing crown to the faithful is given ;
Let thy prayers be more fervent, more constant thy faith,
Thy home is above, thy best treasure in heaven.

Tenth Month 5th.

Eleventh Month 2nd. Oh! for a more realizing view of heavenly things,—for a fixedness of heart on those joys which are unchangeable and eternal! The frequent contemplation of a state of perfect love and perfect happiness, in the enjoyment of that God who is love, must, I think, have a tendency to produce in us, some conformity to the mind which was in Christ Jesus, and to bring us into a state of true charity with all who are pressing towards the heavenly kingdom, though their opinions and sentiments, on many subjects, may differ from our own. Lord! grant us more of this divine charity, which is the greatest of the christian graces: "Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth." The more our attention is fixed on the Sun of righteousness, from whom, all inferior orbs, however various in their order or magnitude, derive their light, the more we shall be cheered, vivified and nourished by his beams, and the more we shall experience a real growth in grace, and in the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is a speculative knowledge, which dwells much in words, is specious in doctrines, and boasts of great attainments in the heavenly mysteries,—is showy, dazzling, and, to superficial observers, passes current for sincere piety; and there is an experimental knowledge, which is meek, lowly and unobtrusive, more employed in seeking after conformity to the will of God, in studying the perfections of our divine and all-sufficient Saviour, and in secret prostration at the foot of his cross, than in noisy disputation or polemical discussion;—dangerous ground, at best, even for experienced christians, and those who find it their duty to engage in it, had need to be closely girded with the whole armour of light; for it is on this ground, the enemy of all good, loves to throw his envenomed shafts at the champions of truth, and, if possible, he will wound them, some way or other, in the combat. Happy they, who are permitted to retreat into the covert, where the good Shepherd feeds his little ones, and who know the fulfilment of that gracious assurance, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is staid on Thee."

"Ah! give me, Lord, the single eye,
Which aims at nought but Thee;
I fain would live, and yet, not I,
But Jesus live in me."

To M. W.

Wellington, *First Month 22nd*, 1833.

. . . . . I fancy thee now, my dear cousin, once more a sojourner in the place of thy nativity ; and there, my heart has often saluted thee, as one, who, in the midst of abundant outward comforts, and many social privileges, is nevertheless often sad at heart, and disposed to pensive, if not mournful, ruminations. It cannot be otherwise, at seasons, with the truly feeling and reflecting mind ; and perhaps, though our trials arise from different causes, and the circumstances by which we are surrounded, are various, the cup of life is more equally mingled than we are aware of. Both of us, I believe, are prepared to acknowledge, that in its mixed composition, the loving kindness and tender mercy of our God, have ever been predominating ingredients, and that it has been made to overflow with blessings, even when its taste has been most bitter ; and so, I humbly trust, my beloved cousin, we shall yet find it, through the manifestation of that Spirit which helpeth our infirmities, and giveth us, at times, to see and feel the preciousness of the chastenings, which are from our Heavenly Father's hand. . . . . Thou wilt perceive, we are not left without our chastisements, and I greatly desire they may be made to yield to our souls the peaceable fruit of righteousness, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our beloved mother continues with us, in a very weak and sinking state ; at times, she suffers much, yet is very patient and tranquil, and we feel it a privilege to sit by her bed. My visits to her chamber are less frequent than those of her other daughters-in-law, having less bodily capability at present, and the constant claims of an invalid at home ; but once in every week, at least, I endeavour to spend the most part of a day at Tonedale ; where we deeply feel the chasm that will be made in our circle, when the separating stroke shall come, and deprive us of an honoured parent, who has affectionately cherished all her children, and who, for a long course of years, has been the central point of a large circle. . . . . .

Thy tenderly attached,

M. S. Fox.

Third Month 13th, Fourth-day. "Bless the Lord, Oh my

soul! and forget not all his benefits." I desire reverently and thankfully to acknowledge the goodness and mercy of God, to one of his most unworthy children, in that it hath pleased Him, graciously to sustain and uphold my spirit by the word of his power; for it is not of ourselves, that we are enabled to lift up our hearts to Him in faith, or to feel, from day to day, a calm, confiding trust, that all which concerneth us, will be directed by infinite love and perfect wisdom. Many and various are my feelings, in looking towards an interesting period now drawing near; but though there are moments, when the great adversary of souls tries to fill me with disheartening fears, or to unsettle me with gloomy apprehensions, I am, for the most part, preserved in peaceful reliance on the covenant mercies of God my Saviour, and enabled to believe, that He will do all things well. He hath mercifully permitted me, from time to time, to draw near to his sacred footstool, to commit those who are dearest to me, yea, and my own soul also, into his most holy keeping, in the precious conviction, that whatever may be his designs concerning me, as to the present life, He hath not in anger "turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me."

30*th*, *Seventh-day*. This day, being my birth-day, could not fail to bring with it many serious reflections. The charge of Moses to the assembled tribes of Israel, when he recounted to them the mighty acts of God, has been much in my mind. "Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee, these forty years in the wilderness." O my soul! thou art indeed especially called upon, to consider and to admire, with humble and adoring gratitude, the way by which thou hast been led; the difficulties, the temptations, the deliverances, and above all, the multiplied and abounding mercies thou hast experienced. "Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee, these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldst keep his commandment or no; and He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know, that He might make thee know, that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord, doth man

live." "Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee. Therefore, thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways and to fear Him."

Four times ten years have passed over my head, since it pleased the great Giver of every good gift, to bestow on me the precious boon of existence; and how have they been marked? They seem to me now, on endeavouring to retrace their varied scenes and circumstances, to arrange themselves into four periods, having each its own characteristic experience.

In the ten years of childhood, I enjoyed the tender care of pious parents, whose unremitting endeavour it was, to train up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, to introduce them, early, to an acquaintance with the Holy Scriptures, and, by wise and judicious culture, to prepare the soil of the heart, for the operations of the heavenly Husbandman. Being of a high spirit and volatile temper, my disposition rendered restraint as needful as it was irksome, and often brought my tenderly affectionate parents into deep anxiety on my account. Many and fervent were their prayers, I doubt not, that I might be brought under the regulating influence of the Holy Spirit, and be led to see the beauty of the truth as it is in Jesus; and these, their petitions, I have often since considered, as the richest inheritance they could bequeath to their children. Very early, was my heart made sensible of the love of God, and strong desires were at times raised in my soul, to become one of his children; but, notwithstanding these good impressions, and my love of the Holy Scriptures, which I read much and with great delight, the next ten years were, for the most part, years of inconsideration and levity. In the course of them, we were deprived of our excellent mother, whose example was peculiarly instructive, and her counsels prudent, judicious and affectionate. My thoughts often recur, with bitter anguish, to the few years which immediately followed her death, when I might have afforded so much solace to my tender and deeply sorrowing father, had my heart been but duly subjected to the restraining power of the cross of Christ. And, Oh! what cause have I to adore the preventing grace, which saved my feet from the path of destruction, at a time when my own folly and

inconsideration, would have made me an easy prey of our soul's enemy. Then, perhaps, were those prayers of my beloved parents, which had for so many years been offered up, permitted to descend on their unworthy child, in the blessing of that God, who heareth and answereth prayer, and who, in his tender mercy, was pleased to follow me with the reproofs of instruction.

The ten years subsequent to this, were years of chastisement and discipline variously administered. Our inestimable father was taken from us, under circumstances, which, even now, move every feeling within me, when they are vividly brought to remembrance. After his redeemed spirit had joined its beloved companion, in the world of rest and purity, a series of trials,—some, of my own procuring for want of prayerful dependence on an Almighty Saviour,—some, more directly in the course of providential dispensation, were made the means of humbling and softening, in some degree, my hard, obdurate heart. I was brought to feel my own sinfulness, helplessness and misery, and to cry, I humbly trust, in sincerity of soul, "God be merciful to me a sinner," to lie prostrate at the feet of Jesus, my compassionate Saviour, and, in a precious feeling of resignation to his will, to beg that He would do with me whatsoever seemed good in his sight. Then was the love of Christ felt to be a constraining principle, and after many deep conflicts of spirit, I was made to bow before the Lord, and brought to a willingness to testify to others, what He had done for my soul. In our Quarterly Meeting, at Poole, a few days after the completion of my thirtieth year, I first spoke in the character of a minister, in those words of the psalmist, "How great is thy goodness, which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee." The sweet peace, I was permitted to enjoy for a short time afterwards, no language can describe;—a sense of the pardoning love of God in Christ Jesus my Lord, which seemed to swallow up my spirit, and leave nothing to disturb the soul's repose on his infinite and everlasting mercy. "Bless the Lord, O my soul! and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul! and forget not all his benefits."

And now, what shall I say of the last ten years? What a record would they present of the faithfulness of God; of the tender care and matchless mercy of my covenant Lord and Saviour, and of my own ingratitude, unfaithfulness and negli-

genee. My cup has, indeed, been made to overflow with blessings. In the faithful partner of my joys and sorrows, in the precious children God hath given us, and in a large circle of kind, affectionate and worthy relatives, I feel that I am rich indeed. To me, belongeth only confusion of face; but I trust I may acknowledge, with reverent gratitude, that to these temporal mercies, my Heavenly Father, in his abounding goodness, has been pleased to superadd somewhat of the blessings of the heaven above, to show me more clearly the sinfulness and depravity of my own heart, and to give me stronger and fuller views of the glory of that gospel, which "is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Here, then, let me set up an Ebenezer and say,—Hitherto hath the Lord helped me. Whether days or years may be added to the fleeting span of life, is known only to Him, who seeth the end from the beginning. Wonderful in counsel and excellent in working, He doeth all things well: to this only wise God, our Saviour, I desire to commit myself and those dearest to me.

Fourth Month 6th, Seventh-day. Paid a sweet visit to our beloved mother, who has, for several months past, been confined almost entirely to her bed, under the gradually wasting progress of an incurable malady. When I arrived at Tonedale, this morning, our dear invalid was too ill to see any besides those in immediate attendance, but, in the afternoon, being somewhat relieved, I was admitted to her chamber. I found a perceptible alteration in her appearance, since I visited her a few days before; but the sweet tranquillity that surrounded the couch, seemed like an earnest of the rest which awaited the long afflicted and sorrowing spirit. Notwithstanding the weakness and suffering under which our dear parent laboured, she entered, with lively interest, into what more particularly affected others; asked many questions about our dear children; spoke of their little gratifications, and displayed, in various ways, that affectionate consideration, for which she was so remarkable. She took leave of me, most tenderly, at parting, and I left her bed-side with the apprehension, that the days of her mourning were almost ended, and that the dawn of a glorious and never-ending day, was about to rise on her humble and lowly spirit.

9th, Third-day. About one o'clock, this afternoon, the spirit

of our beloved mother was liberated from its afflicted tabernacle, and so gently, that it was difficult to those around, to mark the precise moment, at which the vital spark was extinguished. The members of the family who were in the house, could scarcely be summoned in time. Very soon however, twelve brothers and sisters surrounded the bed, where the dear remains were resting, as in an easy and natural slumber, with a peculiar sweetness of expression; and we partook together of a precious quiet. Our brother S. was enabled to offer vocally, the tribute of thanksgiving and praise, which I trust was felt by all, in that it has pleased the God and Father of all our mercies to say, "It is enough;" to set the spirit free from its suffering tabernacle, and, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, to minister an entrance abundantly into his everlasting kingdom of undefiled rest. We have indeed lost much in the departure of this exemplary parent, who watched over her numerous family with tender love and christian solicitude; but our loss is, we fully and confidingly believe, her eternal gain, and therefore, we are bound to give thanks on her account, and to esteem it a favour, that we enjoyed, to so late a period, the privileges of her affectionate care and counsel. Our dear mother had just completed her seventy-fourth year.

CHAPTER X.

1833—1835. Character as a mother—Birth of a son—Her sister's health declines—Death of her aunt, M. H.—Religious engagements—Lameness—Illness in family—Stay at Ilfracombe—Religious engagement in Lancashire and Yorkshire—Her sister's increased illness and decease.

The birth of her third and youngest child, seems to furnish an appropriate opportunity, for making some reference to Maria Fox's character, in the important and interesting relation of a mother. Without such an allusion, however brief, this Memoir would be incomplete indeed, for with whatever feelings of partiality, her character may be contemplated in other points of view, it was in this, that some of its loveliest features were exhibited.

Sympathy with others, was, in no common degree, a trait of her disposition, and to this, may be traced, in part, the lively interest with which she entered into the pursuits, and pleasures, and feelings of her children, so that, when in their society, she seemed, in some sort, to identify herself with them. She ever deemed it important, to render their childhood a happy period, not by withdrawing those restraints which a christian parent is bound to impose, but by encircling them as with an atmosphere of kindness and love. From their earliest infancy, it was her anxious desire, to train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, to bring them to the feet of their Saviour, to shield them from temptation, and, above all, by her own deport-

ment, to present to their view, a constant and practical illustration of the substantial privileges, the happiness and peace, resulting from a life of religion. Deep and abiding was her sense of responsibility, and frequent and fervent were her petitions, not only that she might be enabled, rightly to perform her part in respect to her beloved children, but that the Lord himself would be pleased to keep them, and bless them, and carry forward his own work in their souls.

Fourth Month 24th, Fourth-day. "In the day when I cried, Thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul." How many of the Lord's servants, in every age of the world and in every variety of circumstances, have cried unto Him and received strength, since the day when the psalmist recorded, in this touching language, his grateful sense of the support afforded to his own soul. And now it hath pleased a gracious and covenant-keeping God, to give me (one of the most unworthy of those who call upon Him) fresh occasion to commemorate his name, and to say, "In the day when I cried, Thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul." In the remembrance of his mercy, my heart is humbled within me. Oh! that I may be enabled to praise Him for all his goodness, and to trust Him, that He will yet bless us and ours, giving us to sing together of the multitude of his mercies.

Fifth Month 6th, Second-day. Felt perturbed in mind, and anxious, during the night, on many accounts, especially respecting the dear children and my beloved sister, whose wasted frame and worn countenance bespeak a degree of weakness and prostration, which is very affecting to me. Whilst I was musing on these different causes of thoughtfulness, I was comforted by those words of the apostle Peter, "Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you;" and throughout the day, though my mind has not been so calm and confiding as I desire, they have afforded me encouragement and support. What an assurance is this, that the eternal, unchangeable, almighty God, cares for us, his poor, feeble,

helpless creatures, and invites us to cast all our care upon Him. We are apt to think, if we had this or that assistance from our fellow-mortals, we should do better than we do ; but what human aid is to be compared with the tender, the compassionate, the infinitely wise superintendence of our Heavenly Father and Friend ? He knows our frame, and every secret working of the minds He has created ; He knows, perfectly, what will aid, and what will injure us ; what will advance, and what retard, our highest happiness. Who then, with such a God to call upon, such a Saviour to trust in, can want anything that is really good ! Be humbled, O my soul! under the sense of thy ingratitude and unbelief, and henceforth bring all thy cares, thy anxieties and thy burdens, to the feet of thy covenant God and Saviour, of Him who hath said, " Call upon me in the day of trouble, I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

21*st, Third-day.* Since the last memorandum was written, my dear sister has appeared rather to lose ground, than otherwise; and we have had other indisposition in our family ; so that, on my entering again upon domestic duties, I found myself surrounded by circumstances, in which I greatly needed a calm, confiding spirit. But, alas ! notwithstanding the view so lately given me, of the tender care of our Heavenly Father towards his unworthy children, how was my poor, unstable mind, a prey to anxiety, and filled with dismay. Physical weakness might be, in some sort, the cause, but certainly there was a lamentable want of that patient submission, which would have enabled me to fulfil with composure, the duties of each day, and led me to trace in all these things, the hand of love and mercy. My dear sister has been so long the companion of my life, and has ever devoted herself so assiduously to the promotion of my comfort, in sickness and in health, that I must be ungrateful and insensible indeed, if I did not tenderly sympathize in all her sufferings. The desire and prayer of my heart is, to be enabled to commit her to the care of the great and good Shepherd, who watches, with compassionate kindness, over all his flock ; and who will not suffer his afflicted people to be cast down below hope, though He may deeply and closely prove their faith and patience. He knows the end from the beginning, and his counsels of old are faithfulness

and truth. Oh! that I could more fully trust Him, and repose on his love.

Sixth Month, 2nd. I think I have felt, to-day, some thankful sense of the Lord's tender care and compassionate kindness, displayed towards me and mine. To Him be all the praise! for in me dwelleth no good thing. My mind is too often occupied with petty cares, and filled with vain disquiet, and it is only when a ray of heavenly love and light breaks in upon the soul, that it can so far rise above the encumbering trifles of time, as to feel the glow of gratitude towards the great Giver of all its temporal and spiritual blessings, or be quickened with that holy desire which pervaded the heart of the psalmist, when he said, "What shall I render unto the Lord, for all his benefits towards me?"

Tenth Month. A few weeks ago, I received information, that my dear aunt M. Hoyland, and her daughter, who have been spending some time at Clifton, had decided on returning to Waterford. To me, this was a close trial, though it had been looked forward to. They sailed from Bristol, on the morning of the 17th inst., and had a rough passage of thirty-five hours, during which, they suffered severe sickness. My dear aunt, in particular, was so entirely exhausted, that on their landing, her friends could not but be apprehensive of her sinking under it. She was taken to the house of her friends, W. and L. Peet, and nursed with great care and kindness. During several days, she was very low and weak, and had considerable fever, but the physician who attended her, did not apprehend danger; he thought rest and stillness would restore the exhausted powers of nature. But it pleased Infinite Wisdom to order it otherwise, and her redeemed spirit was gently set free from its worn tabernacle. To us, this bereaving stroke was somewhat like the severing of a still nearer tie, her care for us having been almost parental; and the consciousness, that she is no more an inhabitant of earth, cannot fail to fill our hearts with that sorrow which is natural and allowable. But, I trust, we are enabled to look beyond the grave, to those bright regions, where she is now, we fully believe, for ever at rest, and through the grace of her Redeemer, presented faultless before the throne of God. May the Holy Spirit, the everlasting Comforter, apply to our hearts a

realizing sense of this state of eternal blessedness, and bow our spirits before the throne of grace, humbly to supplicate for ourselves and for our children, that we may be made partakers in the same great salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. The remains of our beloved aunt were deposited in the same grave with those of her husband, who had been buried at Waterford, thirty-two years before. During this long period of separation from her dearest earthly friend, she had been "a widow indeed," and we confidingly believe, their happy spirits are now forever united in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

To M. F—r.

Wellington, 19*th of Twelfth Month*, 1833.

My dear Friend,

It has long been in my heart to write a few lines to thee, with whom my thoughts have often been in affectionate sympathy; but various circumstances, added to the daily claims on my time, have left me little leisure and less capacity, for this employ. They have not, however, prevented me from mentally visiting thee, from time to time, in that dwelling, where thou hast so long shared and so abundantly soothed, the sorrows of a highly valued and truly valuable friend,—a dwelling, I can fully believe, made now very solitary to thee, by a late solemn event. For though, to the redeemed spirit of our dear, departed relative, we cannot doubt the change is unspeakably glorious; and thou, who wast so intimately acquainted with the many griefs and sufferings which encompassed her, whilst an inhabitant of a sinking tabernacle, must be especially prepared to rejoice, in the joy of an entrance being ministered unto her "abundantly, into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ;" yet it is not possible to have the endearing connexions we have formed on earth, thus dissolved, without the heart being deeply touched; and where the claims on affectionate kindness and on personal exertion, have been so pressing and so continued, there is, perhaps, a still more lively perception of the chasm made by the hand of death. We too, my dear friend, have been called to give up a very dear relative, on whose judicious counsel and tender sympathy, we were wont to lean with intimate confidence. The conclusion of my

beloved aunt, to return to Ireland, was, in itself, a heavy trial to us; so heavy, that both she and ourselves, so far shrunk from it, as never to have taken a formal leave of each other; but when she last visited us at Wellington, my heart painfully foreboded, that we should meet her no more on earth; so frail was her general appearance, and so did the precious spirit seem to be tending towards the glorious haven of its long desired rest. Still, to receive the tidings so soon after they quitted our land, aggravated as they were by the belief, that the severe sickness suffered during a boisterous passage, had been the accelerating cause, was, I assure thee, my dear friend, an agonizing stroke to us. On this, however, we desire to be preserved from unprofitably reasoning, because the Judge of all the earth doeth right, and He could have removed her by any other means, if the time was come, when it was consistent with his perfect wisdom, to release her from all the many conflicts of a tribulated pilgrimage, and receive her to his unclouded and eternal rest. Thither, we cannot doubt, she is gone, through the merits and mercy of her dear Redeemer; and, with the just of all generations, is now presented faultless before the throne. That this blessed and glorious exchange should be realized by two such long attached friends and contemporaries, within a few days of each other, was a striking coincidence.

Well, my beloved friend, may we feel the removal of those who have been as waymarks, and whose example preached powerfully; but let us not cast away our confidence, seeing that adorable Redeemer, by whose grace alone they were what they were, still lives, and is all-mighty to strengthen, all-gracious to succour, those who put their trust in Him. To this covenant God and the word of his grace, may we be able to commend one another, and to press toward the mark, for the prize which they have so happily attained. . . . .

Thy affectionate and sympathizing,

Maria S. Fox.

About this time, Maria Fox obtained the concurrence of her Monthly Meeting, for holding meetings in the neighbourhood of Wellington, for persons not of our religious Society. Several of these were held,—of

such an interesting and satisfactory character, that it is to be regretted, that so slight reference to them, is found in her journal and letters.

To M. Y.

Wellington, *Twelfth Month* 22*nd*, 1833.

My dear M.,

Perhaps thou wilt ask, how I have been faring since the day we parted.* I wish I could say,—resting in deep humility at the foot of the cross; but alas! the foe without, and the traitor within, have been too often in league to drag me thence, and to occupy me with many things that are not promotive of that state, beautifully described by David, when he said, "Return unto thy rest, O my soul! for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee." Still, I trust I may say, in reference to the past, I feel there is cause for deep and reverent gratitude; and for the future, I desire to trust the goodness of that gracious God, who has hitherto helped us, and who does not require us to move, whilst the cloud is on the tabernacle. Some things have tended to depress us, but if we could more completely and constantly trust the great Head of the church, to carry forward his own work, in such manner as He sees meet, without so much reasoning on what appears incomprehensible to our bird's-eye vision, it would be much to our profit. . . . .

Thy affectionate,

M. S. F.

1834. *First Month.* Another year has passed away, and, in reviewing the principal events, which, to us, have marked its course, we find much to fill our minds with humbling and profitable reflections. That God in whose hand is the frail thread of our existence, has been pleased to make it the opening and the closing year of life, to some closely united to us. In the birth of our precious J., and in the now promising appearance of this infant child, we have a loud call on our gratitude to the great Giver of every good gift. Nor is the tribute of thanksgiving and praise, less appropriate or less called for, in events which have bereaved

* This refers to a meeting, held in the Baptist chapel, at Wellington.

us of those we loved and honoured, and on whom we leaned for counsel and support. They are taken from us, and our tears will flow, when we remember their watchful love, their christian and parental sympathy; but they are, we humbly believe, for ever freed from pain and sorrow, and admitted to the glorious presence of that God, whom they loved and served on earth,—gathered, as the shock of corn fully ripe, into the heavenly garner. Rich mercies have been mingled with our sorrows, and our joys have been, in wondrous love, so chastened by that hand which tempers all his dispensations in perfect wisdom, that we may well exclaim with the psalmist, "I will sing of mercy and judgment; unto Thee, O Lord! will I sing."—"Thou crownest the year with thy goodness." Give us hearts to feel thy love, and open Thou our lips to thy praise; above all, sanctify us, we pray Thee, by the influences of thy eternal Spirit, and make us grow in practical holiness, in that deep experimental religion, which is the work of grace alone, and by which, we may, in hourly and daily conduct, adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour.

16*th.* The anxieties of the parent are many, where there is a sincere desire to be found faithful in the duties of that sacred relation; but in this, as in every other difficulty of the christian course, "Looking unto Jesus," should be our motto. "In the Lord have I righteousness and strength," was the expression of one formerly. Oh! that we may seek his strength, day by day.

18*th.* "My sighs are many and my heart is faint," is often the language of the christian, when he feels the pressure of his soul's enemies, and the strength of that warfare he has to maintain with his three powerful foes, the world, the flesh and the devil. Struggling against an evil heart of unbelief, which is ever ready to lend itself to the temptations of the world, or to the stratagems of the wicked one, his soul is sore vexed within him. To whom shall he look, when the archers have shot at him and wounded him, but to that almighty Captain, who is the victorious leader of the people of God? Lord Jesus! be Thou our strength and our salvation;—Thou hast triumphed over the powers of darkness; make *us* also conquerors, through faith in thy name;—by thy own mighty power, cut off our enemies, and subdue those who rise against us. My temptations are many, at the present

time, from the buffetings of Satan, who is, perhaps, never more unceasing in his attacks upon the soul, than when called, in any way, openly to profess its allegiance to the King of kings. Since the last date, a public meeting at Ilminster has been held; very formidable in prospect, and when the time came, my mind seemed to be left destitute of any right preparation for the service; indeed, I was ready to conclude myself devoid of all proper feeling, and to think I had surely entered on a work to which I was not called. However, it pleased a merciful God, who willeth not the death of sinners, to cause his gospel to be freely proclaimed amongst the people, and to enable his unworthy servants to testify of "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." To Him be all the praise!

Second Month 23rd. I have had, for some time, a painful affection about the knee joint, which is an impediment to my using as much exercise as I have been accustomed to. Sometimes, I am apprehensive it may prove of more consequence than at present appears; and the thought of being disqualified for actively promoting the comfort of my beloved husband and precious children, is discouraging, but I desire to remember, in this as in other things, that I am not my own, and if it please Him, in whom we live and move and have our being, to diminish or withdraw the power of bodily exertion, who shall say, "What doest Thou?" I can render no services to my family, but as He gives ability from day to day; should it please my heavenly Father to lessen this ability, may I be resigned to his perfect will, and seek to commit all into his hand, through faith.

To M. Y.

Wellington, *Third Month 21st*, 1834.

My dear Friend,

Thy kind letter was very grateful to me; such a salutation, too, from one whose love and sympathy have often solaced us, was particularly seasonable, for it has not been all sunshine with us, since the time we parted. Not that I would utter the language of complaint,—far otherwise. Blessings, constant, abundant, innumerable, have been showered upon our daily path, and all our

trials have been so graciously mingled with them, that there is, indeed, no room for anything but humble and adoring gratitude. To live always in the sunshine, would ill suit our nature, and the state in which we are placed; we should either be scorched up, or entirely exhausted by the luxuriance of unprofitable growth. No,—the great and good Husbandman knows, there must be some frost and cold wind, much pruning and digging about, to harden the plant, and to cause its irregular shoots to become fruit-bearing branches to his praise. What a merciful privilege, we ought to consider it, my dear friend, that this discipline is continued to us, that we are not yet numbered with the branches that are taken away or cut down, or as trees that are cumberers of the ground; but that the all-powerful intercession of our compassionate Redeemer, still prevails on our behalf, "Let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it." . . . . . We were interested with thy account of your journey; I know it would be a painful effort. Such efforts the christian is often called to make, as he endeavours, though at an infinite distance, to follow in the footsteps of a Saviour, who pleased not Himself, and he is supported by the consciousness that the path of duty is the only path of peace and safety. . . . . .

Thy truly affectionate,
Maria S. Fox.

Third Month 23rd. I have been now confined very much to the house, and often to the sofa, for a considerable time. The difficulty of giving up to this inactive state, when there is no actual illness, is great for a mother, but it is, no doubt, profitable for me. I desire however to record it with humble gratitude, that in the commencement of this indisposition, my mind was so melted under a sense of the abounding love and mercy of God in Jesus Christ, that it seemed to hush all my natural emotions into the calm of acquiescence and resignation to the divine will. I could not but regard it, as the probable cause of much suffering to myself, and as involving very important and serious apprehensions for my precious husband and tender children; but whenever I turned to this discouraging view, a heavenly tranquillity overspread my mind, and my gracious Lord seemed to say, "Leave

all to me: cast thy burden on me, I will sustain thee. 'When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee.' Those who are dearer to thee than thy own life, are infinitely dearer to me, and I am infinitely more able to supply their wants. Have I not died for them, and can I be, for a moment, indifferent to their happiness or welfare? Trust all in my hands, and I will work for you according to my own good pleasure." Morning after morning, when I awoke, and the thought of my incompetence to minister to the comfort of those I so tenderly love, rushed into my mind, something of this sort seemed to stem the tide of natural feeling, in a manner that was wonderful to myself; and though subsequently, I have had to experience a state of great destitution, from the withdrawing of those consolations, which are the joy of the christian believer, I have, for the most part, been enabled to keep hold of these gracious promises, and to believe that the word will assuredly be fulfilled in its season. At the present time, my lameness is considerably better; the remedies prescribed by the surgeon we have consulted, appear so far successful; but whether it is only a temporary relief, we cannot at present judge. My dear husband is poorly with a severe cold, and our S. is delicate and drooping, so that we are obliged to place him under medical care.

The hand of our heavenly Father is upon us, in the ministration of chastening. "No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous," said the apostle; if *he* found it so, no wonder such a worm as myself, should be at times, cast down. What is to be the issue of our present trials, we know not, but that mercy, infinite mercy, is inscribed on them all, we most fully believe. If the Lord loveth whom He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth, it is better surely to receive chastening at the hand of God, than to bask in the sunshine of worldly ease, and forget that this is not our rest. I am prone to take a serious view of sickness, whenever it appears in any of those for whom I am particularly interested; but perhaps, this is rather a favour to myself, because it quickens watchful care for those who suffer, stimulates to present duty, and it has a tendency to drive the soul at once to its refuge.

Fourth Month 21*st.* My dear S. continuing very poorly, and my knee still painful, we went, last month, to Exeter, for the benefit of surgical advice. My mind was deeply affected on leaving home, more solicitous on my beloved husband's account, than my own; but the change of air, and judicious medical care, had a favourable effect on his health.

27*th.* Since our return home, have had some deep conflicts and provings of faith, and my infirmities are such, as greatly to incapacitate me for usefulness in my family; nevertheless, I believe the temporary recess we have had, has been a means of improving our health, as well as of enabling us to take a prospective and retrospective view of our situation in some respects, which, I trust, may not be without profit to our minds. Faith and hope have been a little renewed; and our confidence, I trust, somewhat strengthened in that gracious God, who has so mercifully brought us hitherto. Such however, is the instability of our nature and the weakness of our faith, that we are no sooner again upon the sea, than our fears rise, and we cry, with the disciples, "Lord! save us, we perish." Oh! that we may cry indeed, not in a distrustful, but in a confiding spirit, unto Him who holds the waters in his hand, and who can, in a moment, control the fury of winds and waves. It is ours to feel the buffeting of the tempest,—the "Peace, be still," our all-powerful and wonder-working Saviour reserves to Himself; but if we cling to Him in faith, what have we to fear! "The Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice." Oh! that we could so realize this blessed and supporting truth, as to rest in his will.

To E. S—h.

Wellington, *Fifth Month* 14*th*, 1834.

My dear Friend,

. . . . . Thy kind wish expressed in thy last, to see us on the way to the Yearly Meeting, was gratefully noticed; but this year, it is not our lot to be amongst the many who assemble on that occasion. We supposed it probable, three months ago, but it is

otherwise ordered, and I doubt not, wisely. When we are kept at home, by circumstances not within our own control, we may safely conclude, it is the best place for us. Thou wilt naturally ask, what these circumstances are; so I will proceed to tell thee, that I have been, for some time, prevented from much active exertion, by a weakness in one knee, and I am still obliged to submit to more restriction, than is agreeable or convenient to a mother. I ought, however, most cheerfully to acquiesce in this, as I am favoured to be generally free from pain, and have so many comforts and alleviations, that there is room for nothing but gratitude. Still, our wayward nature is often too much disposed to overlook the bright side of the picture, and to dwell on some privation or suffering, instead of remembering, how abundantly mercies and blessings predominate in our cup. An apostle said, that "no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous." Oh! that we may be so patiently exercised thereby, as to be enabled, in our ultimate experience, to go on with him, and say, "Nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness, unto them which are exercised thereby." . . . . .

Our precious boys are well, and are very interesting company. I sometimes feel it a privation, that I can no longer range about the garden with them, or help them to fly their kites or to weed their gardens, as I used to do; but at other times, I reflect that this suspension of all active pursuits, is a means of my staying at home, and gives me the privilege and pleasure of being more constantly with them. Experience, dear E., changes one's sentiments, in many respects. I used to wonder, when I was a girl, that mothers were so absorbed about their children, as to have little inclination, at times, for anything else. Now, I wonder when I see a mother who is fond of going out. However, I hope I desire to have these strong and endearing claims kept in their proper place, and in subservience to the divine will. . . . . .

Thy very cordially attached,
Maria S. Fox.

Sixth Month 29th. Since the last date, we have had an almost uninterrupted succession of sickness and nursing. Confined to bed about two weeks, with a sort of low fever, and

before my strength returned, scarlet fever and measles in the family, I have had little leisure or ability for writing; but being now, once more favoured to be down stairs, with my husband and children, and to see the latter recovered from a sickly and trying complaint, I am bound gratefully to acknowledge the support that has been extended to us, in this time of trial. The chastening hand has indeed been laid upon us, but our afflictions have been wonderfully tempered, and so mixed with rich and countless mercies, that we may well say with the psalmist, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted." It is in the depths of humiliation and sorrow, that our Heavenly Father is often pleased to show us the power of his arm, and to teach us that lesson, which we can never learn too often,—our entire dependence on Him. Blessed and happy circumstances are those, however painful to nature, which lead us to the foot of the cross; and bring us low before Him who is the resurrection and the life of his people. Grant, O Lord! that this time of instruction and discipline may not be lost; but enable us, of thy mercy, to see its design, and to bring forth, through faith in thy Son, those fruits of the Spirit, which are evidences of our love to Thee. Suffer us not to deceive ourselves; but show us if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

When I recur to the events of the last two years and a half, and consider, that during that time, we have not been, for many weeks together, free from some kind of indisposition in our household, and have had, in the course of it, no small portion of actual illness, I cannot doubt but this protracted trial is fraught with important lessons of instruction, and strong desires are often raised in my mind, that the gracious purposes of Infinite Wisdom, in thus afflicting us, may be fully answered; that we may so draw near to God in spirit, through the blood of the covenant, as to receive from Him a larger measure of the spirit of grace and of supplication, and know more of the sanctifying, directing and enlightening power of the one eternal Comforter; that, whether our future calling be, to do or to suffer, we may find our own will subjected to the will of our Heavenly Father, who has an undoubted right to order all that concerns us, according to his good pleasure.

"TELLE EST LA VIE."

Dost thou see yon fair bark by the billows upborne,
Her canvass all filled with the fresh breeze of morn?
How she shines in the sunbeam, and dashes the spray
From her prow, as she steadily goes on her way;
Whilst visions of joy o'er her mariners come,
Of the heart-cheering welcome that waits them at home.
Dost thou see her?—all gladness, all grace and all motion,
Like a sea-bird at play on the lap of the ocean.

Mark her well,—wind may come yet,—above her are clouds;
Already the hollow breeze sounds in her shrouds;
The gale blows a-head,—she has shifted her course,
She reefs in her mainsail, and bends to its force;
O'er her slippery deck, see the rude surges sweep,
There! now she is lost in the swell of the deep;
Again she ascends on the crest of the wave,
Now plunges down headlong, as seeking her grave.

Such is life!—the young mariner views with delight
His fast sailing vessel, well freighted and tight,
Crowds on all his canvass, steers right for his port,
Nor deems that the tempest shall make him its sport.
It comes; and the billows rise high to o'erwhelm,
His wave-beaten bark will not answer her helm,
She drives towards the breakers, all human aid vain,
The force of that wild-dashing surge to restrain.

Such the voyage of life! can it prosperous be,
Without that great Pilot who governs the sea?
Ask thy Saviour to take but the helm in his hand,
Trust not thy own wisdom, give Him the command.
All-gracious to hear thee, all-mighty to save,
His voice can speak peace to the wind and the wave,
He would steer thee in safety amid the rude blast,
And bring thee with joy to the haven at last.

Ilfracombe, Eighth Month 25th.

Eleventh Month 25th. Since the last memorandum was made, several months have elapsed, and in the course of this time, we have passed through a great variety of scenes and circumstances. In the Seventh Month, my dear husband took us all to Ilfracombe, for the benefit of sea air; and in that fine

situation, we were favoured to derive advantage to our health, as well as enjoyment. The beauties of nature and the wonders of the creating hand, were spread around us, in rich profusion ; and though my dear sister and myself were much confined within doors, yet, from the windows of our lodgings, we had an extensive view of the sea, as well as of the romantic scenery of the coast. We stayed there two months, in the course of which, my dear S. and I came home, to attend our Monthly Meeting, and to lay before our friends, a prospect of visiting some meetings in Yorkshire and Lancashire ; a very formidable undertaking, on many accounts ; and many were our secret prayers, for the blessing of heavenly direction and guidance in this matter. Our friends did not see it their place to offer any impediment, and therefore, on the 5th of the Ninth Month, we left Ilfracombe, in the steamer, for Bristol, having previously parted with my beloved sister, and sent our precious children home. We proceeded from Bristol, pretty direct to Manchester, and from thence to the Quarterly Meetings at Liverpool, York and Darlington, taking meetings by the way, and in several instances, holding them also with persons not of our Society. We returned from Darlington, by way of Leeds, Bradford, &c., to Liverpool ; from whence we came home, by the most direct route, through Chester, Shrewsbury and Monmouth. We were absent about two months, and were very closely engaged nearly the whole time, but were favoured to travel in safety, and to find our health rather improved than otherwise, notwithstanding our close exercises of body and mind. Our beloved children also went on nicely, in our absence, and we were permitted to meet them in good health and spirits. For all these mercies, we owe the tribute of lively gratitude. In the course of the various engagements included in this journey, we have had to pass through many deep exercises, and faith has been often brought very low. We have indeed gone from place to place, under such a feeling of the want of faith, both in ourselves and others, as was depressing to our spirits ; but there were seasons, when, through the love and mercy of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord, our souls were lifted as out of the depths, and we were enabled to speak, what we apprehended to be the gospel message, to those amongst whom we went. The deep humiliations and various conflicts that have

attended us, and the mercy and faithfulness of the Lord, displayed towards his unworthy servants, I desire to dwell upon in secret, and to make matter of profitable meditation, now that we are once more permitted to enjoy the comforts of home ;—enjoy, did I say? yes, I hope we do enjoy the unspeakable privilege of being restored to the precious treasures we had left, and to our own habitation ; though since we have returned home, it has pleased our great and ever gracious Lord, to exercise us with such conflicts of spirit, as that for a time, we were almost ready to faint, under his chastening hand. Nevertheless, I believe, our souls reverently acknowledge his undoubted right to deal with the instruments, He condescends at times to use, according to his own unerring wisdom. When they are thrown by, and left to feel their own worthlessness, with the temptations of the enemy to buffet them, and an evil heart of unbelief to upbraid them, they are distressed indeed ; but that divine Saviour who giveth the victory, hath all power in his hand, and can, in his own time, bruise Satan under the feet of those who look up to Him for help.

Twelfth Month 28*th*. My dear sister's complaint increases, and assumes a more discouraging character. It is a day of affliction, wherein we have great need of that support, which is to be found in patient dependence upon God, and in the view of his unutterable love and mercy displayed in the gospel of his Son. Oh! to be enabled, in living faith, to trust our all to Him, and to commit those dearest to us into his good keeping, for time and for eternity. The sickness and suffering of this beloved sister, come very close to my feelings. Lord! enable me to say, "Thy will be done."

To M. Y.

Wellington, *Second Month* 11*th*, 1835.

My dear Friend,

I am desirous of preparing a few lines, to thank thee for thy last kind letter, and to testify the love I always feel towards one, whose friendship is sweet to us, but I fear it will not be a cheering epistle, for the frame of my mind is very low. It is a

cloudy day with us, in many ways. May it please the Lord, in his great mercy, to "set his bow in the cloud," and to give us faith to behold in it, the token of an everlasting covenant, in which are included innumerable blessings and privileges to the humble believer. Our state is one of great solicitude, and we are often called to the peculiar trial of witnessing severe sufferings, which we can do little or nothing to alleviate. My dear sister has had to endure lately, a great deal of very acute pain, so much, that last week, nature seemed almost worn down with the agony and loss of sleep. As to myself, I am capable of doing very little for my beloved H., in the present time of affliction, and thou wilt be sure, we acutely feel this; but we desire to remember, that this also cometh from God, who "is wonderful in counsel and excellent in working," and who knows precisely what is the discipline our souls need. Whilst these outward trials attend us, inward conflicts are not wanting. The enemy tempts and buffets me; he has lost nothing of his ancient malice and cruelty; but if we can but cling, in confiding faith, to that Redeemer who has bruised the head of Satan, surely even this mortal foe can never harm us. Oh! for a grain of that triumphant faith, which filled the breast of Paul, when he said, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" May the power of divine grace keep us all, —keep us humble, keep us watchful, prayerful and resigned to his will, and, whether that involve, as to us, doing or suffering, all will be well. . . . . .

Thy ever affectionate and interested,

M. S. Fox.

To M. K.

Wellington, *Third Month* 12*th*, 1835.

My dear M.

We were much prepared for the solemn tidings of yesterday's post, by the particulars, thy dear sister kindly gave us in her former letter. The compassionate kindness of a tender Father, has, in some degree, prepared you for this bereaving stroke. He has given you length of time to contemplate its gradual approach, and a consoling evidence, that his own gracious hand directed, carried on, and at length completed, this dispensation of sorrow to

you, but now, we must believe, of joy unspeakable to the beloved parent, He has seen meet to remove from you. The afflictions which are of God's appointment, are accompanied with a peculiar sweetness, because He mercifully supplies a support proportioned to the exigence, tempers the storm with a conviction that He himself presides over it, shows us that it is subject to his control, that He has power to say to the swelling wave, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further;" so that the humbled yet troubled soul, is often sustained in a manner wonderful to itself, and enabled to recognise the presence of that divine Saviour, who said to his terrified disciples, "It is I, be not afraid." Yet there are moments, when nature seems overwhelmed with the force of its own emotions, and I do not forget, that yours is a grief of the most tender and touching character, a loss that is irreparable; but, my dear child, flee to Him who is a father of the fatherless in his holy habitation.

May you be encouraged, in this hour of deep distress, to commit yourselves unreservedly, to his covenant care, through faith in that adorable Redeemer, who hath loved you and given Himself for you. You have had a long period of anxious watching by the bed of sickness; day and night, it has been given you to walk, as on the very borders of time and of eternity; to feel the infinite importance of the one,—the entire insignificance of the other. Lessons of deep and solemn instruction have been opened by the hand of heavenly wisdom, and as page after page has been unfolded, have not your hearts acknowledged their force, and have not your prayers ascended, for strength to receive all, in submission to the will of God, and for grace, to complete in you the purposes of that perfect will. May these be fully accomplished "to the praise of the glory of his grace;" may He take you into his own good keeping, comfort your hearts, stablish, strengthen, settle you! But I must not enlarge. The Lord himself is teaching you by this most solemn and impressive dispensation, and when He takes the work into his own hands, He speaks in a language, which brings all human language to nothing . . . . .

Believe me, dear M.,

Thy truly sympathizing friend,

Maria S. Fox.

To M. Y.

Wellington, *Third Month*, 1835.

My beloved M.,

It has given us much concern to hear thou art so unwell as to be confined to the house, where, however, I hope thou wilt be willing to stay, till the variable winds of this variable season, are somewhat passed over, and a warmer sun sheds its beams upon us; or, as I ought rather to have said, till the sun sheds on us warmer beams; for the sun is unchangeable, and all the interposing clouds and chilling blasts of a wintry season and a changing clime, can never, in the least degree, affect its vivifying warmth or its cheering brightness. It rolls on;—day and night, summer and winter, seed-time and harvest, attest its power; and yet how apt we are, in a dark day or gloomy season, to speak and feel as if we knew not this most certain truth. So beautifully does the natural world represent the spiritual! My weak faith resembles my weak body; and when the genial rays of that luminary from which it derives its nourishment, are withdrawn, it shrinks and dwindles. Alas! when shall I learn to walk by faith and not by sight. I do not ask thee to write, because much writing is not good for thee, but be assured, thou art, thyself, an epistle written in our hearts, and it is one we love to read. We think of thee, my dear friend, as of one with whom we have often taken sweet counsel,—one who is peculiarly under the care of that good Shepherd, who carries his lambs in his arms; and when He sees meet to feed them with the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, will confirm to them that ancient word of his promise, "Yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more." This, however, is not always fulfilled to us, just in the way we may desire. When it pleases God to withdraw us from those outward means of instruction, from which we have often derived comfort and encouragement, He does not always open to us, in a particular manner, the springs of inward refreshment and consolation. He brings us, perhaps, into that state described by the mournful prophet, when he said, "For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the Comforter that should relieve my soul, is far from me;" but still, my dear friend, He is as surely teaching us, as when He does it

in a more sensible manner; He is showing us that He is God, and none else,—that He will not give his glory to another,—that we must rest on Him, and Him alone,—that to Him it belongs, to begin, carry forward, and ultimately to complete, the great work of our salvation. May we then, my beloved M., lean, in full confidence of faith, on those precious promises, which are, yea and amen for ever, in Christ Jesus our Lord. May we know Him more and more, to be "made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption;" and then, we shall be able to look round on the swelling waves, with something of the holy firmness which filled the breast of Paul, when he said, "None of these things move me."

The state of our small portion of the church militant, is indeed, such, that we cannot fail of being deeply interested in it, and sometimes the heart seems ready to sink at the view; but I love to turn to the contemplation of that state, where all the sincere-hearted followers of the same Lord, are forever united in his glorious presence. What an assembly is *there*, of spirits redeemed out of every nation, kindred, tongue and people,—and yet, all love, harmony and joy; and the nearer we approach to the Sun of righteousness, who is the centre of that perfect system, the more we shall experience of a preparation for such blessed society. John tells us, in the fifth of Revelations, what song employs them. Oh! that the church on earth were more ready to catch the sacred strain! . . . . . .

Thy very affectionate,

M. S. Fox.

To S. F.

Wellington, 23*rd of Fifth Month*, 1835.

My beloved S. F.,

Thy letter, this evening, has filled my heart with tender sympathy for thee and the rest of our dear friends, who are partaking in the sorrows and the conflicts of the day,—"the burden and heat," we may indeed say. May the Lord strengthen you, and keep you in the secret of his pavilion! How different are the lines of our respective allotments, at the present time! and in this, I see that fitness, which is always to be traced in the dealings

of our Heavenly Father with his children; for, indeed, I am not at all adapted to such a scene of conflict, as that in which you are engaged. I am called, in the privacy of the sick chamber, to witness the sufferings of a tenderly beloved relative, and to see the triumph of faith over all the sorrows of the sinking tabernacle; for although the pain and weariness endured by our dear invalid, seem, at times, almost to overwhelm her spirit and ours, yet, on the whole, she is supported in so much patience and resignation, and the prospect seems so clear, as to the future, that we feel the post we fill, a very privileged one; and many precious seasons we have had together, when our minds have been sweetly filled with the consoling sense of that presence, which is better than life. I endeavour, from day to day, to look up to that compassionate God, who has hitherto been so gracious to us, and who can help us when all human help fails, and encourage the hope, that in his tender mercies, He will permit a little diminution of pain, as the weakness increases, which would be an especial favour. . . . . .

Thy tenderly affectionate,

M. S. Fox.

To E. S—h.

Wellington, *Sixth Month 2nd*, 1835.

My dear Friend,

Thy very kind letter, received some days since, would have been replied to, I believe, earlier, had not my attention been so closely engaged, by the increasingly suffering state of my beloved sister, that I have found it difficult to write. I have now been staying entirely at her house, for more than two weeks, only visiting our precious children occasionally, whilst our dear invalid is resting, or can spare me from her room. She has indeed, my dear friend, suffered greatly, since thou left us. Day and night, we may say, in the mournful language of the psalmist, the Lord's hand is heavy upon her; nevertheless, she is, in unutterable goodness, sustained from day to day, hoping, trusting in his mercy, so that we feel it a privilege, of no common kind, to be attending on her, and partaking, as far as we are able, in the trials and consolations that are permitted to her. We dare not desire the prolongation of sufferings, we are unable effectually to relieve, and which time

seems only to augment; still, nature shrinks exceedingly from the severing stroke. Last night was one of such indescribable anguish, that my spirit is almost overwhelmed within me; yet are we enabled, again and again, to look towards the holy temple, and to lift up our hearts to that tender Father, whose compassions are new every morning; and He is graciously pleased to renew to us, from season to season, the consoling evidence, that, through the merits of our blessed Redeemer, these afflictions shall be outbalanced by "the eternal weight of glory," reserved in Heaven, for those "who, through faith and patience, inherit the promises." . . . . . .

Believe me, dear E.
Thy affectionate, though afflicted friend,
M. S. Fox.

To M. E.

Wellington, *Seventh Month 25th*, 1835.

. . . . . Our beloved H. has not, for some time past, expressed much as regards the future, but there is a precious quiet about her, which is to me most comforting. I do not, perhaps, lay so much stress, as some, on the expressions of persons on a sick-bed; not that I undervalue the utterance of those pious feelings of hope and confidence, and even joy, which are sometimes permitted to fill the heart of the christian sufferer, and to edify, instruct and console those around him;—on the contrary, I deem them invaluable, but there is a sweet stillness, which seems to have in it a supporting *fulness*, and this, I sometimes hope, we are now and then permitted to feel. What we have yet to witness, or to pass through, remains concealed, but we know, *who* hath conquered the last enemy. . . . . .

M. F.

To — —.

Wellington, *Eighth Month 25th*, 1835.

My dear friend,

Thy kind letter reached me a few days since, and though I may not be able to write much, I am disposed to begin a few lines, which may, perhaps, find thee in your temporary seclusion,

at the Sand Rock Spring. There is, I know, a feeling of loneliness, in being placed at a distance from one's friends, amidst the sublime and wild of nature's scenery, which is more especially depressing when interrupted health is the cause, and under these circumstances, the remembrance of those who are affectionately interested in our welfare, is peculiarly grateful. I thought, as I read thy letter, I could enter, in some degree, into the state of mind in which I fancied it was written; but I doubt not, my dear friend, there are some advantages in your present retirement. I often think, when we are obliged to go to the sea-side for health, the opportunity it affords for quiet and withdrawing for a season from the excitement of company, and other things which unavoidably press on the attention at home, is one of its great enjoyments and advantages. The mind does not bear a continual giving out, even though it be, to what may seem only necessary cares, without suffering; and intervals of rest, when it can review the past with instruction, recount the mercies of the present, and seek for strength to meet the unknown trials of the future, are peculiarly desirable for the christian pilgrim; and oh! my dear friend, let us not, for a moment, give way to the discouraging idea that we cannot do this. Who is there that can do anything, but by the power of divine grace? If Paul said, "I can do all things," it was not without this most important addition, whereon, indeed, all his ability turned, "through Christ which strengtheneth me." Now, if we conclude that the same Almighty Saviour will not strengthen *us*, when we apply to Him in faith, we derogate greatly from the gracious benevolence of his character. It is the enemy of all good, who tempts us to dwell on our unworthiness. Merit, we can never have, to recommend us to his favour, but because of our utter demerit, our entire helplessness and inability to do anything for ourselves, yes, and in exact proportion to our sense of it, He is willing to succour and to save us. Instead then of seeking to find in ourselves anything that will recommend us in the divine sight, let us, my friend, be content to go simply, just as we are, to Him who has said, He will not cast out those who come unto Him, and then, He will enable us to believe, that we are objects of his love, and mercy, and tender care, and that all our trials are but evidences

of the Father's love. Mary Fletcher relates, in the account of her life, a very curious dream, the remembrance of which has often afforded comfort and instruction to me, and, though I am not a dealer in dreams, I will tell it thee as nearly as I can. The individual thought he was at the bottom of a deep well, from which there was no possibility of rising, when, looking up, he perceived, through the opening at the top, a small bright spot in the sky. He fixed his eyes earnestly upon it, and, whilst doing this, perceived he had risen gradually several feet from the bottom; he then looked down into the well, and immediately sank again. Still, the bright spot was in the sky, and he now determined to fix his eye steadily upon it, and look down no more: he did so, and soon found himself safe on dry ground. So, dear M., I would encourage thee not to look down, but to look up, and that constantly, to that Saviour on whom help is laid; who is not only able, but willing, "to save to the uttermost them who come unto God by Him." I had no intention, when I began, to write in this manner, but the affectionate sympathy I feel for thee, has drawn me on. I must now turn to what is a very absorbing subject with myself, the state of my beloved sister. We are still closely watching her bed, where she is patiently waiting, I think I may say, all the days of her appointed time. It is a great comfort, to believe she does not suffer much acute pain; great weakness is in itself no small suffering; but we do, I hope, feel very thankful, that this seems at present her principal trial. Her mind is kept in great quietude, and the support that is graciously afforded to her, is, I think, mercifully permitted to extend to those around her bed. . . . .

I am affectionately, thy interested friend,

M. S. Fox.

To S. R.

Wellington, *Ninth Month* 1*st*, 1835.

. . . . . We are still at the deeply interesting "post of observation," I dare not say with Young, "darker every hour," because the path, by which our beloved and long-afflicted sister

descends towards the valley, is, through infinite mercy, enlightened by a beam from that better country which lies beyond, where, we are enabled to believe, she will soon, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, find mortality to be swallowed up of life. On First-day night last, she remarked to me, the divine arm was underneath,—supporting, sustaining her, and on my saying, this it was, that kept her in such sweet peace,—hoping, trusting; she said, "Yes, and panting after the courts." The beautiful words of David were naturally suggested, "As the hart panteth after the water-brooks;" and she immediately completed the sentence, and said, "Yes, that I can truly say, 'so panteth my soul after Thee, O God!'" I often compare the situation of our dear one, as I sit beside her, to the last touching scene in Pilgrim's Progress, where Christiana and her companions lay waiting, in the land of Beulah, for their summons to cross the river; but I do not expect the feelings which now attend, to be continued to us. We, who are privileged to accompany her as it were to the brink, and whose duty it is, to endeavour to minister, in every way, to the alleviation of her sufferings, are permitted graciously to partake of those supports which are so richly provided for her. But the cup has yet to be drunk in its bitterness; when there is no longer any call for watchful care, by day or by night, but we are left to feel our strippedness,—then will come the dregs. We know, however, the same good Hand that sustains her, can sustain us, and that He will do so, unworthy as we are, for the sake of his great mercy, we are bound to believe. We know not what of bodily or mental conflict, has yet to be passed through, but it is to me as remarkable, as it is consoling, that we have never heard our dear sister express anything like a doubt as to the prospect before her. When we consider her natural temperament, her great weakness of body, and the wearing effect of long-continued suffering, you will, I think, concur in the acknowledgment, that it is a striking illustration of the power and efficacy of lively faith, in that Saviour who gave Himself for us. . . . .

With dear love from us all,

Your truly affectionate,

M. S. Fox.

To E. S., S. R. and M. W.

Wellington, *Ninth Month 14th*, 1835.

My dear Cousins,

I feel that some farther account from us, than you have yet received, is due to you and our other kind relatives near you. The affectionate letters of our different friends have been very acceptable, and, I doubt not, many of them are much with us in spirit, though absent in body. . . . . The thoughts of my heart, my beloved cousins, are so many, in reference to the deeply affecting scenes we have had to pass through, that I scarcely know how to say anything; much, I cannot say now, but if ever we should be favoured to meet, I should find comfort in giving you the interesting and affecting particulars that are hoarded in my memory, concerning that beloved and blessed one, who has died in the Lord. I feel anxious you should know, that we do fully believe, the conflict of the last hours, to us so agonizing, was of a character in which the mind has little participation; indeed, I can take comfort in the full belief, that the precious sufferer was, in great measure, spared the perception of it. I think we had more than one merciful evidence of this. But we dwell with peculiar comfort, on a gleam of consciousness, which we were favoured to witness, on the morning of Fifth-day, when, after the night of unutterable distress which we had passed through, she opened her eyes upon us, with a most sweet and expressive smile. There was no expression of sorrow in the countenance,—no appeal to our sympathy, as if in suffering, but, like one awaking from sleep, she seemed surprised to see so many faces around the bed, and delighted to recognize those most dear and familiar. A holy, heavenly joy animated her features, and, though unable to speak, she made great attempts to testify her full assent to my dear husband's remark, that he believed she was very happy. I cannot feel sufficiently thankful for those few moments, which, however, soon passed away. I believe all present were sensible, in a greater or less degree, of the supporting calm that was to be felt in the chamber; a precious evidence

to some of us, that the Angel of the everlasting covenant was with her; that, through all, she was upheld by the power of that almighty King, who sitteth upon the flood. Nothing else could have supported us. . . . .

Affectionately yours,
M. S. Fox.

CHAPTER XI.

1835—1837. Residence at Bath—Illness—Journey in Devon and Cornwall—Dawlish—Letters and memoranda—Quarterly Meeting—Total abstinence—Epidemic—Visit to London—Suffolk—Yearly Meeting—Brighton—Return home.

Some of the events which immediately succeeded this affecting bereavement, are alluded to by Maria Fox, in the following memoranda, penned at a subsequent date. By way of explanation, it is proper to remind the reader, that, at the period described, she was herself suffering under an affection of the knee-joint. This being the complaint which had proved fatal in her beloved sister's case, it could not fail to excite serious apprehension in her own mind, as well as in the minds of her friends.

But though we were brought, by the good hand of the Lord, through this time of deep affliction, and were permitted to feel, that as regarded our dear departed one, death was swallowed up in victory; that, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, she was set free from all sorrow, and was added to the glorious company that surround the throne, such a separation could not take place without strong conflicts of natural feeling.

I was now the only survivor of our family,—bereft of the society of a sister, to whom I had been most closely united; one, who, from our earliest years, had shared my joys and sorrows, with the tenderest sympathy; from whom, throughout the course of my life, I had been but little separated, and who, since my marriage, had been the faithful friend and confidential counsellor of my dear husband and myself, whilst her love and care for our children, were little less than maternal. Sorrows, through which we had passed together in our earlier days, were afresh brought to

view, and the affecting details of her recent illness, deeply engraven on my memory, were often presented to my mind with almost overwhelming force; though I am bound thankfully to acknowledge, that, for some weeks, the sense of her present blessedness was so continued to me, that it seemed to overcome any other consideration.

In the Tenth Month, we went, for a short time, to Exmouth; afterwards, to Bath. This change did not appear to produce the desired effect, and early in the present year (1836) my dear husband prevailed on me to go to London, to take further advice. We returned to Bath, with the intention of continuing the plan prescribed; but the surgeon we employed there, ventured on a more powerful application of the means than was suited to my frame; and by the severe suffering and attendant fever, my strength was much reduced, and extreme nervous debility was the consequence. My distress was indeed great, and it was a season of peculiar trial to us both. I was brought so low that I could only expect to lay down the body, and I had not those spiritual consolations and supports my soul felt the need of, in such an hour of extremity. Yet was the divine arm mercifully underneath, and we were enabled, at seasons, to believe, that He who had helped us hitherto, would not now cast us off. On one occasion, when my tears had been abundantly poured forth, the Lord was pleased to grant me great consolation, by the reading of the sixty-sixth psalm, and my soul was permitted to rejoice in tribulation, and to trust, that I should yet be brought up again, as from the horrible pit, and that the song of praise would be once more put into our mouths. Blessed for ever be the name of the Lord! My dear husband called in another surgeon, under whose judicious treatment, I soon gained sufficient strength to think of returning home, and we left Bath the latter end of the Third Month. My strength was still small, and as the spring advanced, I was sensible of its decrease, so that I was led to take a very serious view of the future. My mind was filled with the awful prospect of death and eternity, and the probability of a separation from my beloved husband and children, was set fully before me. My soul was humbled, and laid low before the Lord, beseeching with strong crying and tears, that He would be with me and with

them, that He would give me ability to drink every cup of suffering, with filial submission to his perfect will, and enable me to cast myself and those dearest to me, upon his free mercy. May my soul never forget the solemnity of those seasons, when I seemed to stand as on the threshold of eternity, overwhelmed with the sense of my own vileness, and made deeply to feel, that there was no hope, but through the everlasting mercies of God, in Christ Jesus. Oh! the preciousness of that salvation which comes by Him,—the reconciliation of sinners unto God, by the blood of the cross, whereby, even my poor, trembling soul was enabled to lay hold on hope, and, in some degree of living faith, to plead on behalf of myself, my beloved husband and tender children, our interest in the blessings and privileges of the gospel covenant. For some weeks, this prospect of departure was continued to my mind, but it pleased the Lord, as the season advanced, to give me some increase of strength, and my dear S. F., anxious to confirm this improvement, proposed a journey into Devon and Cornwall. We set off, the latter end of the Sixth Month, and procceded, by very easy journeys, along the beautiful coast of Devon, into Cornwall, where we paid some pleasant visits to several dear friends and relatives; our B. M. accompanying us. We were favoured to derive essential benefit from the change, and, after a very interesting journey, returned as far as Dawlish, where we entered on lodgings. Here, our other dear boys joined us. The fine air of this sweet spot, the congenial retirement it afforded me, and the lively society of our children, were very grateful, and tended to confirm the benefit derived from our late excursion. We returned home, in the Ninth Month, with an increase of health and strength, which calls for humble gratitude; and though my lameness is not removed, and the prospect of another winter is, in some respects, formidable, yet for the present ability to move about in my family, and enjoy the society of my husband and children, I desire to return the heartfelt tribute of praise, and to say with David, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits."*

* [The following remarks, in reference to the preceding narration, are found under date of 1841.] In recurring to the period to which these memoranda chiefly relate, and the trials of those years, I have often been

The letters and memoranda which follow, written at the period referred to in the foregoing, will be read with interest, as still further exhibiting her feelings, under the circumstances just described.

To E. H.

Exmouth, *Ninth Month 29th*, 1835.

My beloved Aunt,

..... Thou wilt not be surprised, that it has been difficult to me to take up the pen, since the solemn day which deprived me, as to this world, of a most endeared and affectionate sister, whose loss, I am sensible, can never be repaired. My mind is deeply affected by it in many ways; there is something inexpressibly uniting, in that intercourse which takes place between those dear to each other, in the time of suffering; and my beloved sister's protracted illness had been attended with much that was deeply touching, as well as deeply instructive. Sixteen weeks, I had been in close attendance on her, and had so participated in her trials, and been also permitted to witness so much of the support that was graciously extended to her, that I felt, when all was over, almost as if I had accompanied her to the gates of the heavenly city, and been turned back to tread the chequered path of life, whilst she was admitted to be forever with the Lord, and to receive the end of her faith, in the salvation of her soul. Still, though a sense of sore bereavement must long be mine, I hope I have not been without some capacity to rejoice on her account, and to number the many rich blessings which a bountiful Pro-

instructed and encouraged, by considering the tender care of our Heavenly Father, over his feeble and unworthy children. The time was one of great excitement in our Society, and I have often thought the circumstances of trial in which we were placed, being either in close attendance on my dear sister, or confined myself a good deal by illness, were a means of sheltering me from many things, it might otherwise have been difficult to hold at such a distance as was desirable. It is said, in Scripture, when the children of Israel passed through the Red Sea, "the waters were a wall unto them," and it has seemed to me, the afflictions I had then to pass through, were, in some sort, made a means of preservation.

vidence has provided for me ; and earnestly do I desire, I may be quickened, by the remembrance of her example, to a more diligent performance of the duties that remain. . . . . .

I am, my dear aunt,

Thy very affectionate,

M. S. Fox.

To R. J. F.

Wellington, *Tenth Month* 17*th*, 1835.

. . . . . Thy sympathizing heart will feel, that under all the circumstances in which I have been placed for a long time, there has been abundant matter for silent meditation, as well as for active exertion, and thou wilt not wonder, that of late, especially, I have been much inclined to dwell in secret upon the scenes we have been called to witness. I can fully unite, my dear friend, in the sentiment thou hast expressed, that there is abundant cause for thankfulness, on account of those beloved relatives, whose loss we mourn. They have escaped, as we are enabled most fully to believe, from all those trials that we have yet to encounter ; and shall we, for a moment, desire to recall them ? Oh, no ! The thought of that state of blessedness, into which those have entered, who have died in the Lord,—an eternal exemption from all sorrow and suffering, and, what is still more, from temptation and sin, often fills my mind with the sweetest thoughts, and raises earnest desires after a preparation for that glorious inheritance. My precious sister had a long period of suffering ; but she was enabled patiently to wait all the days of her appointed time, in much submission to the divine will. It was a beautiful instance, of simple reliance on the mercy of God in Christ. She did not express a great deal ; but what she did say, was full, and evinced where her dependence was placed. I never heard her express a doubt as to her final acceptance, so stedfast was her faith in the all-sufficiency of her Redeemer ; and I think it the more remarkable, because her natural disposition was timid, and the reverse of confident. Her state, for the last two months, was one of sweet peace, and the quiet that pervaded her apartment, was sustaining to those whose privilege it was to attend upon her. Weeks of inexpressible endearment they were, and I

cannot be too thankful for the consolation afforded me by the reflection, that I was able to be so much with her, and to share so intimately in her sorrows. Many, my dear friend, were the sufferings she had to endure, but she was not left without support proportioned to her need. Indeed, we had all cause to commemorate the mercy that was extended to us, throughout that time of trial. Great comforts and alleviations were provided, and all just when they were most needed, so that it was very confirming to our faith to witness it; and when the last solemn conflict came, and we were brought into deep anguish, in beholding the protracted struggle with the last enemy, we were upheld by the conviction, that the angel of the everlasting covenant was near,—that she was led safely through all,—and that the valley of the shadow of death, terminated in the unclouded glory of that city, which hath no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it. Very peaceful was the last moment, when, without a sigh or struggle, the ransomed spirit quitted its worn and wasted tabernacle; and we felt bound to offer the tribute of thanksgiving, in that, through the merits of our adorable Redeemer, she had obtained the victory.

Greatly do I desire to be stimulated by those who are gone before us, to a more diligent, simple, prayerful dependence on that grace which is sufficient for all our need. It is, indeed, an unspeakable privilege, that is enjoyed by the christian believer, to have a place of refuge,—an ear ever graciously open to his sorrows, temptations and fears,—a throne of grace, to which he is invited to come boldly, in the name of his ever-living Advocate; and the more we avail ourselves of this privilege, the more, I believe, we shall experience of the truth of that promise, "Ask, and ye shall receive." . . . . .

M. S. F.

To E. S.

Wellington, *Tenth Month 26th*, 1835.

My dear Cousin,

. . . . . It is sweet to me to feel assured, there are some kindred hearts to whom my precious, departed sister was dear, and who love to cherish the remembrance of her. My thoughts dwell

much upon the scenes of the last three years, and upon the contemplation of that blessed state, to which they were the prelude, a state in which all mourning has ceased, and the toils of warfare are lost in the song of victory, obtained through the blood of the Lamb. I cannot but acutely feel, dear E., the severing power of that stroke, which has introduced one sister into the courts above, to be forever with the Lord, and left the other, to encounter, yet longer, the storms of life. I find it a solemn thing, to be the only survivor of our own immediate family, but when I reflect that through the power of divine grace, they are, as we humbly believe, all assembled before the throne, I am sometimes encouraged to hope, the same gracious hand which led them through all their trials, and brought them to a city of eternal habitation, will, in infinite mercy, be still extended for our support, in whatever may yet remain, of suffering or of temptation. If our faith were not confirmed in the loving kindness and tender compassion of the Lord, by what we have lately witnessed, we should be indeed ungrateful and insensible receivers of the favours so abundantly bestowed ; but whilst we feel that on this account and on many others, there is the greatest call on our gratitude, there is still a privation which must long be keenly felt. . . . . .

Thy truly affectionate,

M. S. Fox.

To E. S.

Bath, *First Month 4th*, 1836.

My dear Cousin,

. . . . . A letter from M. W., since her arrival at Liverpool, tells me of the anxiety and trial you have had, from the illness of your dear little one. It is a great favour, when we can feel any measure of ability, to commit these precious treasures into the merciful hand of a most tender Father, who is able to do for them "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think," and who has given us many encouraging promises, in reference to the little ones,—the lambs of his fold. Indeed, if it were not for a grain of faith, graciously received from time to time, in his love and care, some of us should be more cast down than we are, under the constant sense of our inability to train them aright, either for

usefulness on earth, or happiness in heaven. How do I desire for myself, increased ability to wrestle in spirit for the blessing,—the fulfilment of that promise, which the apostle told the early believers, was unto them and to their children.

Of subjects that concern, in no small degree, our welfare as a body, I have lately heard but little, and think it a favour to be planted for a season amongst a solitary company, who seem to be not much disquieted by hearing the various and contradictory reports that circulate freely in some other places. It is no small comfort to be able to rest in the belief, that all these things will ultimately be overruled for the good of our poor Society, and that its genuine principles, however they may be distorted and misrepresented by friends or foes, are borne out by Scripture, and will, I fully believe, stand the ordeal through which they are permitted to pass. But whilst one's own mind is mercifully staid by this conviction, it is no easy matter, to walk wisely amongst those by whom one is surrounded. Along with a great deal of painful excitement and an effervescence of indiscreet zeal, there is, in many of our young friends, something that truly loves and desires the good, so that one is often afraid of offending the little ones, by anything that may seem harsh, or not properly feeling for them, and yet it is not always satisfactory, to let the remarks that are passing, go by, without offering a counteracting sentiment. . . . . .

Thy truly affectionate,

M. S. Fox.

To M. E.

London, 18*th of First Month*, 1836.

. . . . . Thy former letter, my dear M., was a welcome proof of thy sisterly interest for us. In reply to it, I may say, that we intend to continue at Bath, till the coldest part of the winter is past, and for the future, we desire to commit our way into that gracious Hand, which has mercifully cared for us hitherto. I think with thee, that our path is often opened by circumstances, and that there is safety in simply following the leadings of Providence in this way. I believe we do not look for any extraordinary manifestations, but when circumstances seem to fix our lot, we must believe it is the right one, for the present.

If another is designed for us, I doubt not, in due time, we shall be permitted to find it, because I believe the sincere desire of both our hearts is, that the Lord would be pleased to choose our inheritance for us, in a temporal as well as spiritual sense. I hope it is not presumptuous to believe, as thou so justly observes, that He who cares for the sparrows, will undertake for those who seek to know his will, unworthy and unbelieving as they feel themselves to be. . . . . We had a very nice letter from my dear aunt E. H., lately ; she writes very sweetly, and seems disposed to number her blessings, as indeed, we have all cause to do. Yes, my dear cousin ! when I think of the exceeding weight of glory, enjoyed by those who have been brought out of all their tribulations, and of the gratitude with which they must look back on the way by which they were led, however rough it might appear to the eye of sense, it does afford encouragement to look beyond the things which are seen, and makes one feel that praises should daily ascend from our hearts for all we may be called to endure, in this short span, if it may but terminate, through the love and mercy of God in Christ, in the same blissful eternity. Still, our coward nature shrinks from pain and suffering, and would fain be excused. Let us, nevertheless, praise the Lord, for his kindness is great towards us. I am sure, when I consider the mercies by which I am surrounded, my soul is often melted within me, and yet, when the enemy tempts me to look on the discouraging side, the power of divine grace alone, can enable my heart to say in sincerity, "For all, I bless thee, most for the severe." . . . . . I have so filled my paper, that I have scarcely room or time to advert to the agitations at Manchester, indeed, I have been much out of the way of hearing, at Bath ; that is a comfort, for agitation is an unprofitable state. I think it a great favour, not to be moved by these things from the conviction, that the Lord reigneth, and that He who first gathered our Society, will yet graciously care for it, and ultimately make it to show forth more abundantly, his praise. . . . . .

M. F.

Bath, Second Month 21*st.* "I will sing of mercy and judgment, unto Thee, O Lord ! will I sing," was the pious

ejaculation of David. May the divine Spirit, the Comforter and Sanctifier of the children of God, work in my heart the same blessed experience, and enable me to receive, not with submission only, but with thankfulness, whatever may be appointed by our Heavenly Father. For months past, his chastening hand has been laid upon me, in bodily sickness and suffering. My faith has been brought very low, sometimes tried as to a hair's breadth, but his merciful kindness has been for my comfort, when the waters came in unto my very soul. Surely I had fainted, unless the Lord, of his great compassion, had given me to believe, that I should see his goodness in the land of the living.

Tonedale, Third Month 30th. Forty-three years of my earthly pilgrimage are completed. Consider, O my soul! all the way by which thou hast been led,—the deliverances that have been wrought for thee, by the power of Him who only redeemeth thy life from destruction,—the blessings wherewith He has surrounded thee, and, though many and deep are the conflicts He calls thee to pass through, the supports and consolations with which He is graciously pleased, at times, to favour thee, ungrateful, distrustful as thou art. Lord! "what is man that Thou art mindful of him?"

To E. S.

Tonedale, *Fourth Month*, 1836.

My dear Cousin,

. . . . . Thou wilt believe, that in the long period of seclusion I have had, and in my present state of incapacity for active employment, my mind dwells often on the solemn and deeply interesting scenes that preceded my beloved sister's removal from us, and keenly feels the loss we sustain; but when I think of her happy escape from all that awaits us, who sojourn in this scene of turmoil and perplexity below, selfish sorrow appears like vile ingratitude to Him, who washed her in his own blood, and hath given her the end of her faith, even the salvation of her soul. May He who has been pleased to bring those who were unspeakably dear to us, safely, through all their conflicts, graciously condescend to be with us who remain, and give us grace to stand in

the day of trial; that, in this time of sore shaking, we may "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering." Thy letter gave us the first information of the resignation of membership by —— ——. We cannot but deem the ground on which he leaves us, false and untenable; nevertheless, I suppose there are many who concur with him in sentiment, and who will probably, sooner or later, follow his example. Great efforts are making to set the stamp of unsoundness upon the principles of the Society; but that true, genuine Quakerism will stand the test of Scripture, and the trial to which it is now brought, we do most sincerely believe. That there are many things in the writings of our early Friends, (especially their controversial writings) which want to be expunged, must be admitted, but that they, or the Society, as a body, have been hostile to the gospel, is a most gross misrepresentation, I had almost said, a foul calumny. . . . . .

Thy truly affectionate

M. S. Fox.

To M. E.

Wellington, *Fifth Month 3rd*, 1836.

. . . . . I can sympathize in dear E.'s feelings, as to the right direction of the minds of our little ones, and the judicious control of their tempers; in which I have constantly to feel my want of skill. What a field for observation is open to those who have a family of children before their eyes! How does their folly, their caprice, and their self-will, shadow forth, (though alas! too faintly) our own conduct towards the most judicious and tender Father; with this prodigious difference, that whilst *they* are required to submit to commands, the propriety of which they may sometimes reasonably question, and may be often puzzled by the inconsistencies of those whom it is their duty to obey, *we* are only called upon to yield our perverse will, to a will in all respects perfect,—our blind judgment, to a judgment that cannot err; and where we doubt, to lean implicitly on a guidance that will never mislead us. . . . . .

M. F.

To M. Y.

Wellington, *Eleventh Month 22nd*, 1836.

My beloved M.,

I can truly say it was a disappointment, during thy late short visit, to have so little opportunity for confidential and free communication, on subjects deeply interesting to us; but it is sometimes the lot of the christian traveller, to be much withheld from intercourse of this sort, with his fellow-pilgrims; and no doubt, it is profitable for him that it should be so, if it tend, in any degree, to quicken him in the duty and privilege of holding spiritual communion with his Father in heaven, whose eye beholds him, under all circumstances, and takes in the full and clear survey of them; which no mortal eye can do. Surely, this is a time, when the command loudly goes forth, "Cease ye from man." May the responsive language of our souls be, "My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from Him." Not that I would, in the least degree, undervalue the aid to be derived from the counsel, the sympathy, and above all, the prayers of our friends, for these are, indeed, some of the good fruits of that union, which is to be enjoyed by the true believers in the Lord Jesus, even here, and an earnest of that more perfect sympathy, which exists among the members of the church above; but in some seasons, there seems to be a peculiar call on us, to hold even these things, loosely, (I do not mean cheaply) but with an humble willingness, to take as much or as little enjoyment in them, as the Lord may see fit for us. I am sometimes reminded of an honest old Friend in Yorkshire, who used to say, "We must not have one foot on the Rock, and one foot on our friends, but we must have both feet on the Rock." Perhaps he would not have been accounted a divine by some of the modern judges, but I doubt not, he had been taught in the school of Christ, that those who would follow Him faithfully, must depend simply upon Him. My mind, dear M., is tenderly interested for thee, and greatly do I desire for thee and for myself, this simplicity of dependence; that we may know our feet to be indeed fixed upon the Rock of ages, and be enabled, through and under all, to give praise unto Him who only could have plucked us out

of the horrible pit,—out of the miry clay; and who hath, at seasons, through his infinite mercy, put the song of praise into our mouths. Oh! saith my soul, that He may establish our goings. . . . . I am one of those who have great faith as to the ultimate issue of things respecting our Society. I often think myself one of the most faithless, as well as most unfaithful of his people, if one at all; but whatever may be my doubts about myself, as respects that department of his fold in which I account it our privilege to be placed, I do believe his purposes are very gracious, and that all these conflicts and tossings will be made subservient to the accomplishment of them. True it is, that the present state of things is very distressing, and deeply painful it is to part with those we love, and what is more, with those, who we believe, love the Lord Jesus; but what can we say? The state of agitation which has been kept up, cannot be helpful to us or them, and if there be anything valuable in those views of christian truth which are dear to some of us, let us hold them fast, believing that the great Head of the church, can yet do for us "exceeding abundantly, above all that we ask or think." Therefore, whilst we judge not those who conscientiously differ, let *us* stand still and wait upon God. . . . . .

Thy truly affectionate,

M. S. Fox.

Eleventh Month 25th, Sixth-day. My dear S. has been from home the last ten days, having gone to London on business. We have not been so distantly separated, since the death of my precious sister; but though I have, at times, felt very stripped and solitary, my mind has been humbled, under a sense of the rich blessings by which I am surrounded, and, in some degree, enabled to commit myself and my dearest earthly treasures, to the care and keeping of the unslumbering Shepherd.

30th, Fourth-day. My dear husband reached home yesterday, after a stormy, and in some sort, perilous journey, from the prevalence of a very high wind. Many trees were blown down, and in some instances, their progress was obstructed by them; but he was favoured to rejoin us safely, and in health. The dear children participated, in a lively manner, in the joy of our meeting.

Before breakfast this morning, we were permitted to unite together, in the offering of praise to our gracious Preserver, and in prayer, that He would be pleased still to be near unto us, to keep us in his holy fear, and to guard us from evil thoughts, words and actions, that so we may live to his praise, who is forever worthy. Finished, to-day, the reading over of my beloved sister's diary, which, together with such of her correspondence as she had preserved, has occupied me much of late. The former contains a touching and instructive record of the dealings of the Lord with her, during the latter years of her life, in which He was pleased to exercise her with deep conflicts, and to give her tears to drink in great measure; but how was her soul sustained by the power of his grace, so that it was given unto her, through living faith in her Saviour, to hope continually in his mercy, and to praise Him more and more. May I be stimulated by the remembrance of her example, which is indeed precious to survivors, and by which, it may truly be said, she "being dead, yet speaketh." Many letters of our beloved and honoured parents have also come under review; reviving in my mind, deeply interesting recollections of past days, and calling forth the tribute of heartfelt gratitude to the God and Father of all our mercies, who was so eminently with them in their earthly pilgrimage, and hath, we fully believe, received them to his eternal glory, through the merits of their dear Redeemer. Oh! that by full submission to the same humbling power, we may be enabled to follow in their footsteps, and to show forth the praises of the Lord.

Twelfth Month 8th, Fifth-day. Returned last evening from our Quarterly Meeting at Bridgewater. We had there the company of our friends, J. and S. P., now on a religious visit in this county. The former was engaged in a solemn and instructive manner, in the meeting for worship, setting forth the greatness of that propitiatory sacrifice which had been made for us by the dear Son of God, and bringing home to the consciences of his hearers, the scriptural assertion, that He "gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." The desire of my heart is, that we may receive, with humble thankfulness to the great Head of the church, every such call to deep self-examination, and

that the Holy Spirit may apply to our hearts, individually, the instruction they are intended to convey. These seasons of publicly assembling with our dear friends, are times of deep humiliation and secret conflict, and how can it be otherwise, in the present distracted, excited state of our Society. Oh! that we may lie low before the Lord, and be much in the place of secret prayer, endeavouring to cast our burdens upon Him, who is sufficient for all our need.

To — —.

Wellington, *Twelfth Month 16th*, 1836.

My dear M.,

I was very glad to get thy kind note, for I much wished to hear of thee, and of the interesting patient for whom thy anxieties are so acutely awakened. It was also consoling to me in itself, and the text with which it opened, touchingly so, at a moment when I felt the need of comfort. Yes, my beloved friend, that gracious and merciful Father, who is so beautifully called in Scripture, "the God of all comfort," does succour us mediately and immediately; sometimes, by the tendering influences of his love shed abroad in our hearts, and sometimes, by qualifying our fellow-believers to speak a word in season: so that, whilst we are, at times, brought very low, in the consciousness that our spiritual enemies are lively and strong, and that their machinations against our peace do but too often succeed to disturb it, our faith is again and again renewed in the sufficiency of our wonder-working Saviour, to whose power the devils are subject. It has been a day of temptation with me, since the time I last saw thee, and I have not felt so much quiet confidence as I desire, or so much ability to commend myself or others to the tender mercies of the Lord in Christ, but these changes of experience, though I believe they are often brought on, by a want of watchful and prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit, are no doubt profitable for us, if they drive us to the sure refuge. Enough, however, of self, for I did not sit down to tell thee of my experiences, but to express my very affectionate and tender sympathy in thy own. In reference to thy uncle's

state of health and state of mind, I have felt much for thee; I well remember the short interview with him, when we called at the vicarage, and felt interested for him, in a way which did not seem to admit of expression then; indeed I always felt, that the visit to I. did not embrace those persons towards whom my mind was most attracted; that however is gone by, but the desire for their best welfare still lives. Do not imagine that I attach any undue importance to myself, in saying this, but we have many and repeated proofs, that however feeble the instruments through which the Lord condescends, at seasons, to work, the safe course is to neglect not present opportunities; there is often no return of them, if we let them pass unimproved, so that I would encourage thee, my dear friend, to be faithful to every opening that may present, and mayst thou be blessed in all thy desires and efforts for the spiritual comfort and welfare of one so dear to thee. I do not know that I can send any message, but if thou incline to tell thy uncle, that I sincerely desire it may please the God of all grace to open fully to him, those inexhaustible springs of consolation which are found in the gospel of his Son, it will convey, perhaps, the substance of what I sometimes think I could say, if I had the opportunity. One thing seems to me important for him to bear in mind; that we must not expect to receive these consolations all at once, and that an important preparation for receiving them, is the deep conviction of our need of them. So that if we have any sense of our own wretchedness, of our undone and helpless condition, we ought to accept it, as a gracious evidence that the Lord is taking us into his own hand, and that He will, when He sees fit, lead us farther, and show us that for all this want and helplessness and misery, there is precisely the provision that the urgency of our case requires, that help is laid on One who is mighty,—One who has triumphed over all our enemies;—and why? that we also may triumph through Him. He died for our sins, and He himself tells us that He came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance; so that if we feel ourselves to be such, we may go to Him and plead our interest in all the benefits of his meritorious death, his mediation and intercession at the right hand of the Father, and ask in faith for those gifts of the Spirit which He purchased for us. Oh! it is a blessed thing

to be brought thus to depend on Christ, and to receive the enlightening, comforting influences of the Holy Spirit, promised to the true believer, not because of our merits, but because of his free mercy. The teaching that is thus carried on in the soul that is truly humbled, is, I believe, the best of all teaching, though I do not undervalue outward helps. . . . . Whether we meet now or not, may we meet often in spirit, where true christians find their best point of union, and be refreshed with those consolations which are ancient and new.

Thy truly affectionate,
M. S. Fox.

Twefth Month 21*st*, *Fourth-day.* Went on the 17th to Exeter, and took the opportunity of calling upon several of my friends, and though feeling very low and discouraged on many accounts, found it refreshing and comforting, to enter into sympathy with those, who, in various ways, are under trial. It is good for us to be called out of ourselves, and to have our trains of thought interrupted in this way. I have often felt the privilege of visiting the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and known, that in this respect, as well as many others, "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Bodily inability has prevented me of late from getting a great deal out of my own dwelling, and when this is the case, there is a danger of the mind being too much absorbed in petty cares, and swallowed up by its own peculiar trials or temptations. Lord! keep me alive in spirit in this respect, and suffer me not to forget the sorrows and sufferings of others, but make me watchful for opportunities to seek out and relieve them, as much as in me lies.

25*th*, *First-day.* My dear S. and I have both signed the pledge of the Total Abstinence Society. We have for some time acted upon its principle, but had not subscribed our names. The efforts that have been making to check the dreadful and overwhelming tide of evil which deluges our land, from the use of intoxicating liquors, have deeply interested my dear husband. He was the first person here, who entered into the Temperance Society, and for a long time laboured much alone. The cause, however, gradually gained ground; and the society now numbers some

hundreds of names; still, it has been able to do but little, as to the actual reformation of drunkards, until the committee agreed on the adoption of the Abstinence pledge; and this is producing a wonderful effect on the labouring classes. We have several cases of extraordinary reformation, in those who have been slaves to the habit of drinking, and abandoned to its attendant vices, but who now appear steady, respectable men, labouring to impart to their neighbours, a share in the benefits they themselves enjoy.

27*th*, *Third-day*. Our friends, J. Eaton and R. Charleton, arrived from Bristol, to attend a meeting of our Temperance Society, held this evening in the Friends' meeting-house. The coldness of the weather and the state of my health, did not admit of my attending it, but the accounts of those who were present, are deeply interesting, and call for humble gratitude to Him, who, in various ways, qualifies instruments for his own work, and is pleased to touch the hearts of some of his children, with such a sense of the infinite value of immortal souls, that they are willing to spend and be spent, if they may be made useful in breaking the fetters of one poor captive, sunk in the most cruel and desolating bondage, and bringing him into a state to receive those blessings and privileges, which are offered in the gospel of salvation. We had a large company to supper, both in the parlour and kitchen; in the latter, several reformed drunkards sat down to enjoy a repast provided for them. Cold meat and hot soup, with the pure beverage from the stream, formed their meal, and it was delightful to observe their composed countenances and respectable appearance. When the repast was finished, we all joined them in the kitchen, and concluded by our usual evening reading. My husband read the fifteenth chapter of Luke, and the hundred and third psalm, which were remarkably appropriate, and after a time of precious stillness, prayer was offered on behalf of these poor men, and of all present. It is indeed refreshing, to contemplate the change in some of them; it leads us to exclaim, "What hath God wrought!" To see those who have been the terror of their families and a public burden, sunk in hopeless wretchedness and misery themselves, and inflicting incalculable sufferings on all connected with them, now sitting, and clothed, and in their right mind, enumerating their own blessings, and anxious to induce others to

follow the path which has led them from complicated evils, to a state of comparative happiness, ought to fill the heart with emotions of gratitude to Him, whose blessing has so evidently rested on this great undertaking. These poor men are now, I understand, all constant attenders of a place of worship, and from their solid and serious deportment, there is every reason to believe, the reformation is not confined to their outward conduct, but that they are experiencing a real change of heart. To the Lord alone be all the praise!

29*th*, *Fifth-day.* Oh! that I had more of the mind that was in Christ,—more of that true and heavenly charity, which hopeth all things, endureth all things, which would lead us to put a kind construction on the actions of those around us, instead of magnifying their failings into causes of offence. This pre-eminent christian grace would enlarge the heart in all true benevolence, and, at the same time, lessen its selfish sensibilities; deaden those emotions that spring from secret pride and self-love, and open boundless fields of sympathy, not only with the sorrows and sufferings, but with the temptations, infirmities and transgressions, of our fellow-creatures. I long to know more of this highest and most exalted sympathy, which so wonderfully characterized our dear Redeemer,—to remember, in the fullest sense, them that are in bonds, as bound with them, and them which suffer adversity, as being ourselves also in the body. What a monstrous contradiction is it, that those who are surrounded by innumerable infirmities, who feel they need, every day, the fresh application of the blood of sprinkling, to wash away their multiplied transgressions, should be so quick to discern the failings of their fellow-pilgrims, and be giving way to feelings of resentment against others, whilst they should themselves lie prostrate in the dust, breathing the prayer of the publican, "God be merciful to me, a sinner." O Lord! baptize us by thy own almighty power into the spirit of thy Son, and give us so to feed on Him, the true bread from heaven, that our souls may be substantially nourished; and that we may grow in all those graces which were so richly displayed in Him. Pour out upon us the spirit of grace and of supplications, and enable us to cast all our burdens upon that Saviour "who, his own self, bare our sins in his own body on the tree." He bore

all for us; how little are we willing to bear for or from each other! When we contemplate man as he is, even after he has made profession of faith in Christ, and has known something of the transforming power of divine grace, how does it exalt our views of the love of God, who gave his own beloved Son for such a race, and of the perfections of that Redeemer, who "endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself."

1837. *First Month* 11*th*, *Fourth-day.* My mind staid, in some degree, on the faithfulness of the Lord, who, though He may permit us to be sorely tossed and afflicted, will not forsake those who seek to put their trust in Him. I fully believe, He has purposes of mercy towards our poor Society, and that He will not suffer those precious truths, it has, for near two centuries, been enabled to maintain, to be lost sight of, but will yet make known his love and power amongst us, if we are willing to submit to his will, to wait his time, and patiently to suffer whatever He may permit.

To M. E.

Wellington, *First Month* 14*th*, 1837.

. . . . . For a long time, my path was so near the brink of the other world, in contemplating the prolonged illness and gradual decline of my precious sister, and then in finding my own health so enfeebled, that I was often ready to apprehend I should soon follow her, that I feel little disposed to enter again into the controversies of this,—but we cannot escape. May the Lord be our strength and our stay! It is very difficult to me to meet these things in a right spirit. How desirable it is to be really humbled under them; and whilst we feel that we cannot go with many whom we love, to be preserved from unduly or uncharitably judging their motives, which is not our business. That we want, as a body, the reviving, resuscitating influence of the Spirit, is sufficiently evident, but that we are to seek it by returning to those observances from which we have been happily set free, is what some of us are not prepared to admit. . . . . .

M. S. F.

First Month 16*th*, *Second-day.* Felt some degree of renewed

ability, this day, to commit all things that concern us into the hand of a covenant-keeping God, to believe that He will undertake for us; and that whatever He shall appoint, will be our best portion; that should it be suffering, either bodily or mental, He will strengthen us according to our day, if we wait patiently upon Him. "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage and He shall strengthen thine heart." What an excellent motto for the christian! Oh! that I may so wait day by day in faith, desiring only that the Lord's will may be wrought in me and by me. To Him be all the praise of his own work.

Second Month 8th, Fourth-day. It has been a time of trial with us as a family, since the last memorandum was made. Our apothecary has had eight patients under this roof, and the extraordinary prevalence of the influenza, which seems to have overspread the land from one end to the other, rendered it difficult to procure helpers. The complaint was attended with a great deal of fever of the low kind, which prostrated the strength and caused a general depression of the whole system. We were indeed cast down together; those who were recovering, experienced so much debility and languor, that they were very unequal to nurse those who were sickening. Many of our relatives around us, have been partaking, in some degree, of the same trial as ourselves; but we have great cause for thankfulness that all seem to be now recovering. Oh! that this season of general affliction, when the chastening hand is laid upon us, nationally, in a remarkable manner, may prove a time of deep humiliation before the Lord; that so, his fatherly correction may not be in vain, but may have the effect of quickening us in his holy fear. During this time of illness in our family, my spirits have been often low, partly, no doubt, from the reducing effect of the complaint, but I fear, too much from the want of exercising a lively faith in the tender mercies and compassionate care of the great and good Shepherd. When the Lord is pleased to lay his chastening hand upon us, it is undoubtedly his will that we should be humbled and brought low, that we should not rise above our afflictions, but bend beneath his rod in a spirit of filial submission; but then, we must not indulge a temper which savours too much of repining and distrust. This, I fear, has been my case. When I lay

upon my bed, ill myself, and seeing almost all around me, more or less affected by the same malady, having a family to care for, and scarcely feeling ability *to think*, I dwelt too much on my solitariness, in regard to female connexions of my own, having now no sister to whom I could look for assistance in such an emergency. This was wrong; if I have not these near ties, it is because the Lord has seen meet to order it otherwise, and if He removes those dependencies on which we are so prone to lean, surely, it is in order that we may lean more entirely upon Him,—upon the arm of infinite power, the bosom of infinite goodness. Oh! what faithless, unbelieving hearts are ours! how much we live below those privileges which are offered us in the gospel of Christ Jesus our Lord! The sense of the rich blessings that are given me, was not, I believe, wholly lost. Oh! that the Lord may greatly heighten my gratitude for these! How different are my circumstances, from those of thousands of my fellow-creatures, in times of sickness or affliction! How shall I sufficiently praise and bless the Hand from which these bounties flow. May I testify my gratitude, by a disposition to succour those who have fewer advantages; and to help, as I am able, the poor and afflicted around me; and may all that I have felt in the last few weeks, have the effect of stimulating me to a more earnest, fervent, constant application to that fountain from whence come all our supplies of grace and strength. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower." May we be of those who run into it and abide there!

9*th*, *Fifth-day*. "Be careful for nothing, but in every thing, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God; and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds, through Christ Jesus." What a precept is this,—to "be careful for nothing!" by which, it certainly is not meant we should be careless of every thing, but that we should not be swallowed up with unprofitable anxiety; rather that we should make known our requests, day by day, unto that God who cares for us, not forgetting that it is to be with thanksgiving, for the multiplied mercies we receive. Oh! if we thus cast our burden upon the Lord, how would He sustain us, and how much more fre-

quently should we receive "the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."

11*th*, *Seventh-day.* It is one of the alleviations of my delicate state of health (and I consider it a great one) that it enables me to have so much of the company of my precious children. It is true, I cannot walk with them, or share their out-door pleasures and recreations, as I used to do; but being so much at home, we can pass a great deal of time together. As I am seldom able to make many calls on my friends, we have our evenings and other times, when they are not in school; and very interesting, to me, is their company and conversation. They enjoy reading such books, as we think suitable for their information or instruction, and are anxious to acquire knowledge; but it is pleasant to observe, how much pleasure they derive from an acquaintance with the Holy Scriptures. I believe the minds of children are particularly susceptible of delight, from the beautifully simple and affecting narratives contained in the bible, and that, if judiciously introduced to them, they are far from finding the other parts uninteresting.

19*th*, *First-day.* "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee." These words of the Lord to his people of old, were brought very sweetly to my remembrance, when I was travelling with my dear husband to the first home we occupied after our marriage, now nearly ten years ago. As we drew near the spot where I was to enter on a new sphere of duties, my mind was naturally led into a train of serious reflections. The instructive past, and the untried future, were brought solemnly into view; the many deep trials, which must be calculated on in the journey of life, even in the most favoured allotment, were pressed home upon my feelings; but this precious Scripture promise came as a cordial, to revive my drooping spirits; and now, let me thankfully acknowledge, not only the recurrence of it, as an encouragement in many times of need, but, that thus far, it has been graciously fulfilled in our experience. The waves have often been permitted to rise high, yet have they never been suffered to overwhelm us. In all our inward and outward conflicts, my beloved companion and myself can commemorate the tender mercy of the Lord; who,

when He hath chastened us sore, hath not given us over unto death, but hath enabled us, again and again, to set up an Ebenezer, and reverently to say,—Blessed be God, which hath not turned away our prayer, nor his mercy from us. Oh! that I may never lose this consolation, (brought to my soul, I humbly hope, by the Comforter) through unwatchfulness or unbelief; but that, when new storms shall arise, I may still trust in the Lord, and betake myself to the sure refuge, the shadow of his wing.

"Jesus! lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
When the billows near me roll,
When the tempest still is high.

Hide me, O my Saviour! hide,
Till the storm of life is past,
Safe into the haven guide;
Oh! receive my soul at last."

Third Month 28*th*, *Fourth-day.* Our dear M. set off for Falmouth yesterday; his father with him. They expect to arrive at the school this evening. We have had this step under our consideration for nearly a year, and I hope we have waited for the right time. It has cost us a great deal to make up our minds, but we cannot be too thankful for the quiet confidence we have felt, since we came to the conclusion, or for the help that was afforded, in strengthening us for the parting. I hope we have been enabled, in a degree of faith, to commit this precious lamb to the tender care of the great and good Shepherd, who only can bless our endeavours of any kind, for the welfare of our dear children.

30*th*, *Sixth-day.* This day completes another year of my life, and brings me so much nearer its solemn termination. "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." May the Lord give us such a knowledge and perception of this great and sublime truth, as shall influence our daily conduct, and cause us to live and walk, as those who are not ignorant of it, but who are candidates for an inheritance in that blessed eternity which is with Him, when the material heavens

shall have passed away as a scroll. If we duly considered this, "that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day," and that we are invited to the glorious privilege of becoming his children, "heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ," how insignificant would many things appear that now ruffle or perplex us!—how trifling the pursuits in which we are too often engaged! Such a consideration would naturally elevate our standard of duty, and help us to estimate things according to their real bearing on our most important interests, but should not make us negligent of the smallest matters that form a part of the sum of our duty to God, who gives us this little span of life, that we may glorify Him, by being conformed to his will. This incomprehensible Being, who grasps the infinity of past and future, to us inconceivable, condescends to care for the lowest and most finite of his creatures, to carry on the most minute as well as the most extended and magnificent operations, in the worlds of nature and of grace; and shall we, poor worms of the dust, think anything small, in which we can prove our love to Him, or render service to our fellow-creatures. It is often, in things apparently trivial in themselves, that our Heavenly Father is pleased to accept our services, and to show us his providential care and goodness.

Fourth Month 11*th*, *Third-day.* Arrived in London, yesterday, with my dear husband. We left home last week, and came by way of Poole and Southampton. Deeply interesting and affecting to my feelings, was our visit to these places, especially the latter, where I lived about six years with my dear sister, and where she laboured abundantly, for the good of her fellow-creatures. We attended the General Meeting for Dorset and Hants, at Poole, and the meetings on First-day, at Southampton. On both these occasions, our minds were painfully affected by the low state of things amongst us; but some ability was afforded to hold out the word of encouragement to the sincere-hearted.

16*th*, *First-day.* Permitted to feel something of that precious, calming influence, which is not at our command, allaying the anxieties and cogitations of the natural mind, and producing a degree of peaceful reliance on the good guidance and tender mercy of the Lord.

To — —.

London, 24*th of Fourth Month*, 1837.

. . . . . Before I enter on any description of our movements, I shall proceed to notice some of the contents of thine. Thou mayst be assured, my dear, we feel for and with thee, under those exercises thou describest; but I infer from the tenor of the communication altogether, thy mind is at present in a state of excitement, which it is safest for thee not to foster; for thankful as we ought to be, and I trust are, that thy attention is seriously turned to the consideration of those solemn truths which are of infinite and eternal importance, and on which the hopes of the true christian depend, we should be sorry to see thee carried away by that current, which, though it may not always take the same direction, seems, in the present day, to endanger the deep, thorough, hidden work, which must be carried on in every regenerated soul (and which is not the work of a day) before it can be prepared to bring forth mature, substantial and good fruit, to the praise of the great Husbandman. Far be it from me to give an opinion, as to what may be thy future path; the great Head of the church chooses his own instruments as it pleaseth Him; but even if it should be his purpose that thou shouldest thus testify thy love to Him, He may show it thee, as He has done to many others, for years, before He calls thee to the public acknowledgment of it. I believe also, that young converts,—those who are newly awakened to the value and importance of religion, are very apt, in the ardour of their feelings, to imagine they are called to great things, and in the overflowings of that love to their Saviour which may be raised in their hearts, to believe they must, as thou expressest it, "speak his praise," to those around them; but it does appear to me, to be one of the very successful stratagems of our ever-watchful enemy, to persuade the young, as soon as they begin to walk in the right way themselves, that they are called upon to teach others, rather than to abide under that blessed teaching, which would, if they had patience to endure its secret reproofs, and to wait upon its many salutary though silent monitions, in due time, make them much more capable to do so, in

their daily life and conversation. I write to thee in great freedom, because thou hast asked it, and because, as one who has lived longer and has seen something of the insidious working of the cruel tempter, I feel it my duty so to do, being assured also thou wilt accept it as it is intended,—not to discourage thy progress in the way that is cast up for thee, whatever that way may be, but to show thee, if it may be, some of the dangers that surround the path of the young pilgrim. The longer I live, the more anxious I feel, that the Lord may give me such a sense of the awful importance of the great truths of religion, as that I may always be fearful of substituting *expression* for *experience*, and that I may be more desirous to feed in secret upon the bread of life, than to talk about it to others. Let us remember, my dear, that stillest streams are the deepest, and that it often pleases the great Sanctifier, Enlightener and Comforter of the people of the Lord, to carry on his work in their souls, after a very hidden manner. I would therefore rather encourage thee to diligence in the duties of the closet, to private reading of the Scriptures, to close self-examination, meditation and secret prayer, than to suffer thyself to be drawn forth into much conversation or writing on thy spiritual concerns. If thou look to the Lord Jesus, and desire to be his sincere, humble follower, He has promised, such "shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life;" and there is no teaching like his teaching. . . . . With respect to visiting the sick poor, thou knowest I have ever encouraged thee to think of them, and to attend to their temporal wants; and, if in the course of thy visits amongst them, for this purpose, thou feel inclined to read to them, it is a very useful and profitable employment for thee and them; but I scarcely need say to thee, it requires great caution and much religious experience, to speak suitably to persons who are perhaps undergoing the correcting discipline of our Heavenly Father, or whom He may be training, by many afflictions, for a better inheritance. "To speak a word in season," requires the assistance of that Spirit which only can teach us to speak aright, and therefore I would say, it is often safer, especially for young persons like thyself, to offer up a secret prayer on their behalf, if that is raised in the heart, than to express ourselves to them under the influence of present excitement. I hope, my dear, this

letter will not discourage thee. "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart."

From thy very affectionate,

MARIA S. FOX.

Fourth Month 25th, Third-day. Went to Ipswich to see our brother and sister, now comfortably settled in their new residence at Rushmere. The fine air of the country, and the renewal of social and kindred intercourse with these dear relatives and their interesting children, very grateful to our feelings.

Fifth Month 4th, Fifth-day. Went to the Monthly Meeting at Woodbridge. I thought we were favoured, soon after we sat down, with a precious solemnity, and a few short sentences were expressed in fear, recommending a state of simple, childlike dependence. In the meeting for business, I thought we were made sweetly sensible of the comfort of love, and an invitation flowed towards the young friends, some of whom, I cannot but believe, are called to avow themselves more fully on the Lord's side, by giving up to whatever He may be pleased to call for at their hands.

7th, First-day. At Southwark meeting; where I was led to speak on the faith of Abraham,—on the proving of this faith, by the giving up of his Isaac as a sacrifice to the Lord, and from the experience of the patriarch, to encourage the Lord's children to hold fast their confidence, however afflicted. Supplication was afterwards offered for them that are afar off, that they may be made nigh by the blood of Christ, that they may look on Him whom they have pierced, and experience remission of sins.

10th, Fourth-day. Came from Stamford Hill to the Monthly Meeting in Gracechurch Street,—a low time. After some close exercise of mind, I stood up with a word of consolation to the mourners; sat down after uttering two or three sentences. The fear of speaking without a sufficient sense of the renewed anointing, of interfering with the services of others and of with holding more than is meet, occasions me often so much conflict of mind in meetings, that my poor body seems scarcely equal to sustain it. Oh! for a more simple dependence on the good Shepherd, a more single eye to Him, who, when He putteth forth

his sheep, goeth before them, leadeth them in and out and giveth them pasture.

14*th*, *First-day.* At Tottenham meeting, in silence. A low day, but enabled to crave of the Lord secretly, that He would be pleased still to be with me, that to the end and at the end, I may experience his loving kindness and tender mercy, and that my beloved husband and precious little ones may be kept as in the hollow of his almighty hand.

18*th*, *Fifth-day.* At meeting again at Tottenham. An exercise attended my mind on behalf of some who love the Lord Jesus, that they may be found willing to follow Him, in true simplicity and in the obedience of faith. Endeavoured, in great weakness, to express it, but sat down without completing what I had in view, greatly discouraged. Oh! that these humiliations may have their right effect. Lord! increase our faith and teach us thy way.

23*rd*, *Third-day.* Attended the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders. Almost as soon as we were gathered, I thought a solemn covering overspread the assembly, which felt like an evidence, that we are not a forsaken people; indeed, to my own mind, there was comfort and refreshment in being once more permitted to sit with my dear friends in this meeting. When the clerk had opened the business, our dear friend J. J. G. rose, and in a beautiful and simple manner, laid before us, his prospect of religious service amongst Friends and others, on the continent of North America, for the performance of which, he had received the sanction of his Monthly and Quarterly Meetings. The subject closely engaged the consideration of the meeting for some hours; very many Friends expressed their unity with the concern; others doubted whether the time for its accomplishment had arrived; but after a deeply interesting deliberation, a committee was appointed to prepare the needful certificate. It was a very instructive meeting, and I thought it a privilege to be there. The care of the body over its members, and the care of the great Head of the church over those who desire simply to follow at his bidding, were very obvious, and though abundant proof was given, that the good and sincere are not always divested of carnal reasonings and cogitations, there was enough to convince a candid

and unprejudiced mind, that the order established amongst us, in reference to these matters, is sound and healthful for individuals and for the Society at large.

25*th*, *Fifth-day*. Went to meeting, to-day, under very solemn impressions. After an absence of six years, it was affecting to my feelings, to see the large number of Friends now convened together, and to consider how the chastening hand has been laid upon us as a Society, and upon some of us, personally, during that time. Soon after the opening minute was read, I felt constrained to offer vocally the tribute of praise, and to petition, that the Lord would be pleased to lift up upon us the light of his countenance, that He would increase our faith, animate our hope, enlarge our hearts in love, and give us access to Him, through the Lord Jesus Christ. In the afternoon, came down to Tottenham, to rest and recruit a little. The quiet of the country very congenial and refreshing, though I feel withdrawing from the meetings and from many dear friends, whose company I might share in town; but all our strength is in the hand of the Lord, and when He withholds the ability for exertion, we may safely conclude, retirement is the best and safest for us. I feel it a true comfort to have such a rest provided for me, when my body is in a feeble condition, and the mind sympathizing in the state of its frail tenement.

27*th*, *Seventh-day*. Called on our bereft friends, E. F. and her daughters. Found them a company of deep mourners, but sorrowing not as those which have no hope; their dear departed relative having given proof, during her life, of her desire to be found diligent in the duties of her day; meekly and unobtrusively occupying with her talents, and exhibiting the graces of the christian character.

28*th*, *First-day*. Cast down in spirits, but, in some degree, quieted in the endeavour, to commit the present and the future into the hand of the Lord, who has hitherto graciously cared for us. It is a great favour, to receive continued good accounts of our beloved children, to whom our thoughts almost continually travel. I feel it a very long separation, and am anxious to return to them.

29*th*, *Second-day*. Felt sorry I had not attended one meeting

yesterday. The whole of a First-day spent at home, and the intervals between meetings unavoidably filled up with company, has a wasting effect on the mind. Went this morning to London, to attend another sitting of our Yearly Meeting. It was very large, and we were favoured with some lively communications in the ministry.

30*th*, *Third-day.* Again at meeting, and, soon after the opening of it, ventured to express a few words of encouragement, to those who might be depressed and sorrowful, having to suffer the temptations of Satan, whilst the beloved of their souls is concealing from them the supports and consolations of his life-giving presence. After I sat down, feared this communication might be out of season, having felt the burden in a preceding meeting, without finding, or at least, using strength to cast it off. The fear of moving before or after the proper time, and the difficulty of doing it at the right time, is great in these large meetings; yet the withholding, when the Lord is pleased to call for ever so small an offering, does often tend to poverty and to the weakening of my little faith. Oh! for a stronger confidence in the help that is promised to the weakest of those who simply depend upon it.

31*st*, *Fourth-day.* Alone, but not lonely; a resting day. The retirement of the country very grateful. May I be renewed in spiritual strength, as well as refreshed in body; and with a thankful heart, stand ready to do or suffer the Lord's will.

Sixth Month 6*th*, *Third-day.* Came, with my cousins M. W. and M. and C. F., to Brighton. My husband having business to detain him a few days in town, is anxious I should take the opportunity of getting a little sea-air.

11*th*, *First-day.* At meeting this morning; a low time. I endeavoured to express a few words on the privilege of being permitted to assemble for the solemn purpose of worship; desired that the young might be sensible of this, and that we might all come together, on such occasions, with a more deep and lively sense of our dependence upon God, and with more of that true hunger and thirst after righteousness, which He alone can fill. My mind much led to-day, into a retrospective view of the experience we have met with in the course of our present journey,

and to a consideration of the importance of seeking after that direction which only is safe, as to our movements for the future. I believe it is the sincere prayer of our hearts,—Lord, undertake for us; suffer us not to take any step that is not likely to conduce to the best welfare of ourselves and our beloved children, and to be a means of advancing our progress in the way of true devotedness; let us not live unto ourselves, but in all things, seek to be conformed to thy will, and to walk before Thee in humility and fear.

12*th*, *Second-day*. This was the last day our little party had together. Before we retired to rest in the evening, we were favoured, after reading, with a sweet season of refreshment; in which, we were, I trust, mutually enabled to feel our confidence renewed in the faithful care and tender mercy of the Lord, who has made Himself known, for our help and deliverance, in many times of trial.

17*th*, *Seventh-day*. We left Brighton on Third-day morning, and proceeded as far as Salisbury, from which place we reached our own home on the following day. The two dear children gave us the most gratifying welcome of sweet affection. Our beloved M. joined us at dinner to-day; a joyous meeting to us all. I trust our hearts are filled with gratitude to our Heavenly Father, who has preserved us, and brought us once more together. May the language of our souls be, "What shall I render unto the Lord, for all his benefits?"

CHAPTER XII.

1837, 1838. Prospect of removing to London—Religious engagement in Somerset and Devon—Departure from Wellington—Settlement at Peckham—Negro apprenticeship—Memoranda and letters—Removal to Tottenham.

For a considerable time, the prospect of removing with their family to the neighbourhood of London, had claimed the serious attention of S. and M. Fox; and the visit to the metropolis, mentioned in the preceding chapter, had the effect of bringing the subject still more closely under their consideration, and of so confirming them in the rectitude of the procedure, that not long after their return home, it was decided on, with the approval of their friends.

There are few persons, by whom a change of residence is not felt to be important; but in a mind constituted as was Maria Fox's, the contemplation of such a step, could not fail to produce deep and serious thoughtfulness. Her feelings, in the anticipation of this movement, as well as during its various stages, will be best described in her own language.

Sixth Month 19th, Second-day. An important prospect, at present, occupies our attention, as it has done, more or less, for at least two years past,—that of removing our residence to the neighbourhood of London. Such a change is, on many accounts, formidable, and we feel it to be a very serious thing. May the Lord undertake for us in the matter, and direct our steps in his fear! I believe we have been often brought, in reference to it, to adopt a prayer like that of Moses, when he

said, "If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence." The longer I live, the less important it appears where our outward habitation is, if it be but in the spot most conducive to our highest interests. Wherever we are, we can have no substantial comfort, but in the simple endeavour to commit our way unto the Lord; and with his guidance and blessing, all our trials and sorrows shall be sweetened.

"If the Lord our leader be,
We may follow, without fear,
East or west, by land or sea,
Home with Him is everywhere."

Oh! may we continue earnestly to seek, and patiently to wait for, his guidance and direction, and be careful to take no step in our own will or contrivance, that if future sorrows should come, we may not have the embittering consciousness of having chosen for ourselves.

Seventh Month 2nd, First-day. Went with my dear husband to the little meeting of Spiceland. We took M. and S. with us, and, after meeting, went to Woodgate, to see our friends there. Dined at R. F.'s, and took tea at his nephew's. At both these houses, some ability was afforded to offer the word of encouragement to faithfulness and devotedness to Him, who hath called us with a high and holy calling. Supplication was also offered for this little company. In the evening, had a sweet ride home, and felt something of that precious peace, with which a stranger cannot intermeddle.

4th, Third-day. We are much occupied with our dear children, now they are all at home, and it is a great pleasure to promote, in every way that we can, their innocent gratifications. Oh! that in the midst of health and youth and great buoyancy of spirits, their hearts may be made sensible of the love of their Heavenly Father, and the tender mercies of their Saviour.

5th, Fourth-day. My dear S. being on an appointment to visit, with some other friends, the Monthly Meeting of the Middle Division of Somerset, I was induced to accompany him to Street, where we attended the meeting, and visited several of

the friends in this rural village, feeling our minds interested on their behalf; we did not, however, express much among them.

9*th*, *First-day*. I have been very poorly lately, with increase of pain in my weak limb, so that my mind has been brought into discouragement on many accounts; but this morning, a renewal of faith was graciously afforded, and some ability to cast all our care on that good Lord, who hath so wonderfully cared for us. He is able to qualify the weakest for whatever He sees meet to require, or to support, under any privation He may permit to befal us. May it please Him to show us clearly the way in which He would have us to walk, and, in reference to important subjects now under our consideration, enable us to follow Him in the simplicity of faith, however humiliating may be the path in which we are led; preserving us also, by his own almighty power, from turning aside on the right hand or the left, or in any wise putting forth the hand unbidden in his holy service.

11*th*, *Third-day*. Our Monthly Meeting, held at Milverton. I ventured to lay before my friends a prospect of visiting a few of the meetings in this county and Devonshire, as well as the families of some of those in this immediate neighbourhood. My dear S. F. expressed his willingness to accompany me, and the meeting concurring in our views, a minute of approbation was prepared. This is a very humiliating engagement, under all the circumstances of these present times; but if it is called for at our hands, the Lord, whom we desire to serve, will not forsake us in our need, but will furnish us with such supplies, from day to day, as He sees meet. Oh then! whilst we have, as it were, "the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves," may we be enabled fully to believe in the goodness and sufficiency of Him who raiseth the dead. May we take every step, in holy, reverential fear, and minister only "of the ability which God giveth," that we may be abased, and his great name, in all things, be glorified.

17*th*, *Second-day*. Since the foregoing date, we have been engaged, as my strength would admit, in the visit to the families here; and have not yet finished. We have gone from house to house, in deep poverty, and with a humbling sense of our own

weakness ; but we have cause reverently to acknowledge the tender mercy of the Lord, who does not forsake the little ones that place their dependence on Him. I humbly trust, some ability has been afforded to speak plain truth in love, though in some instances, if there had been a greater willingness to suffer, there might have been a fuller evidenee, that the whole message had been declared ; still, it has been, on the whole, a season of the renewal of our faith and eonfidenee, in the putting forth of the great and good Shepherd, and in the preeiousness of his anointing.

Eighth Month 6th, First-day. Left home for Exeter, yesterday, with my dear husband, and attended the two meetings to-day. The morning meeting a low time, but near the close, some ability was afforded to petition on behalf of the transgressors, and to implore pardon for us all through the blood of the eovenant. In the evening, there seemed a call to the ehildren and young people, to turn unto the Lord with full purpose of heart, and the language of the psalmist was revived, "Come ye children, hearken unto me ; I will teach you the fear of the Lord." It was altogether a laborious day, from the depressing consciousness, that we are indeed in a low estate as a people, yet though cast down, we are bound humbly to acknowledge, not forsaken of our God.

8th, Third-day. Arrived at Plymouth ; and were most kindly received by dear S. Abbott and her daughter.

11th, Sixth-day. Attended the meeting at Modbury; a small eompany of Friends, who seldom have any outward ministry among them. A refreshing season, in whieh we were permitted, I humbly believe, to know the living spring of eonsolation to be opened, and were favoured to draw near unto Him who has promised to be with the two or three that are met together in his name.

15th, Third-day. Monthly Meeting at Tavistock. A very trying season, attended with an exereise, whieh there seemed no ability to throw off. Several communications were made, one of which, I thought, might have helped us, if it had been earlier in the meeting. In the seeond meeting, a burden still remained with me, and when the business was ended, I was most easy to propose going into the men's meeting. Dear S. Abbott aecom-

panied me, and my mind was somewhat relieved, in endeavouring to encourage Friends to individual faithfulness, as well as to patience under the trials of the day. We dined at J. P.'s with a large company, and had intended proceeding afterwards one stage towards home; but before the company separated, the gathering wing of ancient goodness was mercifully permitted to overshadow us, and the gospel call again went forth to the young people present: they were invited to enter into covenant with the God of Jacob, who appeared to his servant of old in the wilderness of Padan-aram, when he had only a stone for his pillow, and so wonderfully blessed and prospered him, that he was enabled on his return, gratefully to commemorate the Lord's goodness, and feelingly to acknowledge himself unworthy of the least of all the mercies he had received.

16*th*, *Fourth-day*. We rose early, with the intention of setting off for Exeter on our way home, but my mind did not seem clear of Tavistock, I therefore mentioned to our kind friends, my apprehension that we had better give up to stay another day, if Friends could make it convenient to meet together. It was concluded that they could do so in the evening, and notice given accordingly. The time came, and the little company who usually assemble here, were, I suppose, generally collected; some of them from the country. It proved a heavy, oppressive meeting, and was held almost in silence: however discouraging as was the feeling that attended it, I desire not to question improperly why it was so. We were anxious, on every account, to reach home, and should not have stayed another day, if we could comfortably have left without having this meeting; yet when we came to it, I seemed as insensible as a stone, and altogether shut up from bearing testimony to that goodness which is ancient and new. A few feeble petitions were offered for the aid of that Spirit, which is promised to the seeking souls.

17*th*, *Fifth-day*. After breakfast, we had a refreshing season with the dear friends of the family where we lodged, and set off, with some feeling of that precious peace which is far beyond all earthly enjoyment. My mind had been a good deal tried, from an apprehension, that I ought to have proposed our visiting the families of Tavistock meeting, but after considerable conflict on

the subjeet, I trust we were favoured to leave pretty eomfortably; though I desire to extract instruetion from what I then passed through, for if I had been more simple, watehful and diligent, I think it might have been aeeomplished within the time we were there, and the visit have proved more fully relieving. Oh! what a graeious Master do we serve, and how eondeseending is his kindness to his unworthy ehildren, aceepting, for the sake of his dear Son, their feeble and imperfect serviees, and making them partakers of the peaee whieh their Lord promised to bestow.

19*th*, *Seventh-day*. Had a pleasant journey, and reaehed home this evening, having cause gratefully to eommemorate the Lord's goodness.

28*th*, *Second-day*. Went to Taunton on the 23rd, in order to visit Friends in their families, and attend the meeting on First-day. Helped through this exereising service, may I not say, to our humbling admiration. Oh! how great is the Lord's goodness towards the children of men! How does He plead with the rebellious, eneourage the faint-hearted, and invite all to partake of the riehes of his mercy in Christ Jesus! Returned home, to-day, and immediately set about the necessary preparations for our proposed remove to the neighbourhood of London.

Ninth Month 1*st*, *Sixth-day*. Came to Brent last evening, on our way to Claverham. An interesting time with the young people, before we parted in the morning, in which the neeessity of our seeking to be eonformed to the divine will, was somewhat enlarged upon,—the blessedness of being under the Lord's hand for good, in whatever way He may see meet to discipline us, pointed out, and the eomfort experieneed by the Lord's children, from the assurance, that with his blessing, all things shall work together for their good. Went on to Congersbury, and from thenee to a meeting appointed for us at Claverham. Evening very wet, but Friends were pretty generally eollected, some from distant residenees, and a refreshing season we were favoured to partake of together. Went to B. G.'s to lodge.

2*nd*, *Seventh-day*. After breakfast, the dear young people of this interesting family, were eneouraged to give themselves up to the Lord's serviee, in the way of simple dedication. I went after-

wards to see our dear aged friend, E. Gregory, and found her very mournful, from mental depression, which I doubt not has been much induced by physical indisposition. A time of sweet refreshment, in the remembrance of the Lord's unfailing goodness, and of all that tender care which He displays towards His people, in their lowest estate; keeping covenant with the night and with the day, and suffering not his faithfulness to fail. It was very affecting, to see how the infirmities of the mortal tabernacle weigh down the immortal and nobler part, and how those who have been active in their Lord's service, may be tossed, tempted, and well nigh brought to despair, through the weakness of the flesh and the cruelty of their great enemy; but the Lord Jesus is stronger than all, and He it is who shall bruise Satan under their feet, in his own time.

3rd, First-day. At Sidcot meeting. Some renewed ability was given, to set forth the everlasting priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the efficacy of that baptism of the Holy Ghost, which it is his prerogative to administer; also the privileges bestowed on his believing people, who have an ever present Advocate and Mediator, "a minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord hath pitched, and not man." His depending children were encouraged to wait upon and to put their trust in Him, who will still fulfil to such his own promise, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." The afternoon and evening were spent at the two schools, where we were interested in hearing the scriptural examination of the children, and in attending their reading. At the close of the latter, we were favoured with a season of solemnity, when both the children and their instructors were addressed.

4th, Second-day. Before we left, this morning, the young people of the family, where we lodged, were particularly addressed. It seemed laid upon me, to invite them carefully to consider and duly to prize, the privileges enjoyed by the Society to which we belong, not only in those more important points which had been somewhat dwelt upon in the meeting the day before, but even in what may be termed minor matters; believing that these cannot

be given up by those who have been carefully trained in them, without their sustaining loss in greater things. We returned home this day.

From this time, we were closely occupied in preparation for removing our family to London. Very solemn and important the change appeared to be, and many were our secret petitions to the Father of mercies, that He would be with us, to show us his will and to direct our steps in his fear. We felt also, very acutely, the separation from our many dear connexions and beloved friends. As the time drew near for our departure, my mind was attracted, in the flow of gospel love, towards our neighbours generally; but the measure of actual business was so full, and my dear S. F. had so much on his hands, that I felt afraid to express what was in my heart, lest it should unsuitably add to his cares; still, it rested with me from day to day, and when at length I mentioned it to my beloved husband, he most fully encouraged the giving up to the service. As we had not returned our minute, the way seemed open, and a meeting was appointed to be held at the Friends' meeting-house, on the evening of the 20th; it was large and quiet, and a time of renewed favour. Many of our serious neighbours were there; and the uniting power of the love of Christ was permitted to be felt amongst us, under some sense of which, ability was graciously afforded, to enforce the practical nature of true christianity, and the necessity for those who love the Lord Jesus and desire to be his disciples, to follow after holiness.

The following lines were written, at the request of a young friend, at this particular juncture, and therefore, although interrupting, in some degree, the thread of the narrative, are introduced here. The contemplation of the heavenly bodies, was ever a source of enjoyment to Maria Fox; and this comet, from the circumstance of her having often heard her beloved father allude to its former visit to our system, was an object of peculiar interest to her.

ON THE RETURN OF THE COMET IN 1835, AFTER AN ABSENCE OF SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS.

And art thou here, thou wondrous orb of light?
And hast thou brought us tidings from afar?
Who, in thy marvellous and viewless flight,
Hast crossed the path of planet and of star.

Say, didst thou with those sister worlds converse,
That roll harmonious round our central sun?
Canst thou not aught of them or theirs rehearse,
Tell us what hath been said, or thought, or done,

Since they were launched in trackless fields of space,
By an all-mighty and all-bounteous hand?
Do they contain a *vile* or *sinless* race?
Rebellious, or obeying God's command?

Basking at will in heaven's unclouded light,
Breathing the free and yet untainted air;
Or feeling sin's sharp tooth and sorrow's blight,
As we poor fallen sons of Adam are?

Three score and fifteen years their course have sped,
Since thou, our little speck of earth didst see,
And they are numbered with the silent dead,
Who then did lift their eyes to gaze on thee.

Fields have been fought and kings uncrowned, since then,
Despots subdued, and throned again in power;
War hath made havoc of the sons of men,
And blood hath flowed in torrents, since that hour.

Yet dark as are the lines of history's page,
E'en we can speak of sunshine from above;
On us hath shone a star, from age to age,
Whose beams are purest light and truth and love.

That star, which first arose on Bethlehem's plain,
From east to west its cheering ray hath given;
It tells of peace restored, of freedom's reign,
And opes a brighter paradise in heaven,

Where the redeemed of earth, in ceaseless strain,
Shall sing the triumphs of their Saviour's power,
When thou, fair comet, with thy radiant train,
And all yon starry host, are seen no more.

Ninth Month, 1837.

Ninth Month 22nd, Sixth-day. Have made several calls the last few days, particularly amongst our poor neighbours, who showed us much regard, in a very pleasing manner; indeed, the various proofs we have had of the attachment of those amongst whom we dwell, are both affecting and humbling.

23*rd, Seventh-day.* Left Wellington, after a solemn and heart-tendering season with our own household, all of whom, except one, are to follow us to London. We set off, about noon, in our own chaise.

Tenth Month 16th, Second-day. What a change in our situation and circumstances! We have now been ten days at Peckham, and have abundant cause to acknowledge, that we have been cared for and assisted in this serious undertaking, in such a manner as to fill our hearts, at times, with humble, reverent gratitude. Our journey was comfortably accomplished. We attended the Quarterly Meeting at Bristol, on our way, and visited our relatives at Frenchay and Westbury and our friends at Colham Mill, as we travelled along. The weather was fine, which rendered the travelling agreeable, and rather a refreshment to us than otherwise, after the long period of exertion and excitement we had had. Inexpressible weariness we often felt, and a sense of solitariness that is not easily described, feeling ourselves uprooted from many near and dear associations, and, in every sense, pilgrims and sojourners; yet we were kept, for the most part, in a state of peaceful reliance on the good Hand, which, we humbly trust, led us forth. The moment of our arrival here, was one of deep, though secret, feeling to us both. We have now been several times at meeting, and have attended the Monthly Meeting at Southwark. Our friends have given us a cordial and kind welcome; and our minds have been generally kept quiet and trustful.

30*th, Second-day.* The great change we have experienced, by the removal to Peckham, has a natural tendency to force home upon the mind, the often repeated truth, that here we have no continuing city, and to bring with it a serious review of the past. Very solemn have been my feelings, since we entered on this new allotment, and many instructive and deeply-affecting seasons, long since gone by, have passed in review before me, I

humbly hope, not without raising in my heart the sincere tribute of gratitude and praise. For the most part, my mind has been filled with sweet peace, in committing all into the Lord's hand, and in something of a quiet confidence, that He will yet care for us and ours, and order all things in the way that shall be most conducive to our highest interests. My soul has been often ready to say, If the Lord be the portion of our inheritance and of our cup, we need fear no evil; but I do not expect this state of mind to continue long, without the interruption that arises from the temptation of the enemy and the deep-rooted evils of my own heart. If the cruel adversary should, ere long, endeavour to raise anxious and depressing thoughts, and to fill me with unbelief and fear, Oh! that I may flee to the strong for strength, and be enabled still to hold to the anchor, "which entereth into that within the veil." I cannot express the desire I feel, that the various changes we find in our allotment, may be sanctified to us, and be made a means of exciting us to more holy diligence, to more constant watchfulness, and to a more faithful discharge of those every-day duties which devolve upon us. Being unable to walk much, I am necessarily prevented from engaging in those things which interest and occupy many around me; and the numerous claims that came on me from the poor, in the retirement of my own home, at Wellington, are not supplied, at present, by similar ones here, where we are little known. Oh! that this suspension of a kind of occupation, in which I have been wont to find pleasure and profit, may not render me selfish, and attentive to my own personal convenience; but may I rather consider it as a call to increased diligence, in labouring after an acquaintance with my own heart, and seeking more of spiritual communion with my God and Saviour. The best welfare of our household, and our precious children especially, has been much on my mind of late. May it be given me to see, how I can be made most useful to those, who are, in some measure, dependent upon us daily. Chiefly, may I seek continually the aid of the Holy Spirit, who helpeth our infirmities, and be enabled to walk, so as in no wise to dishonour the cause of religion, but rather to hold out the impressive language of example.

Eleventh Month 2nd, Fifth-day. Not at meeting, this morn-

ing, in consequence of a heavy cold. My meditation has turned a little, on a passage in the Proverbs, which was fresh in my mind on waking, though I do not recollect to have read it lately; "Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath." Lord! keep my soul from even the most secret indulgence of a temper so foreign to the spirit of the gospel, so contrary to the self-denying character of the meek and lowly Jesus; and give me grace to bear, with true patience, those faults which it is my duty, as the mistress of a family, to endeavour to correct, in the genuine spirit of love and charity.

8*th*, *Fourth-day*. Oh! that I may be kept in an humble, watchful frame, from day to day, seeking to fulfil my duties towards my own family, in the fear of the Lord. The dear children have a constant claim, requiring the judicious restrain. and direction of parental discipline. Their desire to be with us, and the enjoyment we have in their society, holds out continual inducement to indulge them, perhaps beyond the proper point, but we have ever been fearful of weakening, by undue restraints, that entire confidence they repose in us. How difficult it is, in all things, to maintain the golden mean. Everywhere, we need the assistance of that wisdom which is from above, but especially in this important and sacred charge.

9*th*, *Fifth-day*. Had company last evening. Found it difficult to employ the time just in the manner we should wish; and when we retired to rest, I felt my mind scattered,—the too common effect of visiting; though, I believe, we made some effort to direct the conversation to subjects of usefulness and general interest. The minds of people are much afloat, on account of the Queen's visit to the city, to take place to-day. Multitudes are gone to see the spectacle.

10*th*, *Sixth-day*. The sufferings of the poor negroes in our West India Islands, under the mal-administration of the law of apprenticeship, has been brought afresh before the public during the past year, and very affecting are the scenes disclosed, by the late visit of J. Sturge and his companions. My dear S. F. hopes to be present at a meeting of delegates, on Third-day next, for the purpose of considering what measures can be taken, to secure to them the possession of those advantages, which it was de-

signed by the government here, to bestow, and for which the nation paid £20,000,000 sterling. Oh! how strong is the power of darkness! how deep and ramified the roots of evil! May professing christians be more aroused to consider what is their high calling, and be more diligent in individual and united efforts, for the spreading of true christian principles in the earth; and may those who are unable to assist by active co-operation, ever bear in mind, that they are especially called to seek for ability to put up secret petitions to our Father in heaven, on behalf of the oppressed and afflicted, in every part of his great family. My mind is often deeply affected, in reflecting on the state of the visible church; how far from coming up to that beautiful and comprehensive description, given by our Lord, when He said, "Ye are the salt of the earth;"—"Ye are the light of the world." Oh! that those who name the name of Christ, were indeed brought under the influence of his Spirit, and so led to depart from iniquity, as that they might possess a seasoning virtue, and spread around them a healthful and purifying influence. When will vital, practical godliness take the place of heartless profession and superficial piety? Surely, the church has to undergo a great change, before she can occupy the position designed her in the earth: by what means her awakening and purifying are to be effected, is known only to Him who is her everlasting Head. If He should employ her enemies for this purpose, and suffer her, more fearfully, to feel the rage of her adversaries, it would be no marvel. Oh Lord! give us more faith, more sincerity, more holy stability of purpose; that we may do all in thy fear, and with a single eye to thy glory; and enlarge our hearts, one towards another, in the love of thy gospel of peace.

17*th*, *Sixth-day*. Oh! that I may be found diligent in those duties which belong to my every-day life. The serious responsibility of those who are placed at the head of a family, often weighs heavily on my mind. The proper moral and religious instruction of servants, is a subject much in my thoughts; but I fear, *thinking* about it, too often takes the place of that hearty and conscientious endeavour which ought to be maintained. There is often much that is dissatisfactory in the daily habits of this class of persons. Allowance is doubtless to be made for the

want of early training and a low standard of moral rectitude,—but what most pains me is, that those who consider themselves religious professors, and are deemed so by the societies to which they belong, should not have a more elevated scale of christian duty. Surely, there is a want in christian congregations, of enforcing the plain, practical precepts of the gospel. Am I faithful in this respect, in my private sphere, or do false delicacy and other unworthy motives, deter me from speaking of little things, that do not appear to me consistent with sound morality or good principles?

20*th*, *Second-day*. It has often been matter of solemn and serious consideration to me, since we came here, that such an alteration in our situation and associations, must have an effect upon us all; that it will not be without an influence of one kind or the other, either contributing to our advancement in the christian course, or causing us to take retrograde steps. May we be so watchful and circumspect, in humble dependence on the Hand that only can keep us, as to find it conduce to our soul's benefit, and become a means of quickening our pace heavenward.

29*th*, *Fourth-day*. How it grieves me to see any of our dear friends departing from that scriptural simplicity of language, which, as members of our Society, they have been taught to use! I hope my beloved children will never abandon this noble testimony against the corruptions of a false and deceitful world; for though I would be far from commending a self-righteous spirit or a censorious temper, towards our christian brethren and sisters, whose attention may not have been called, as ours has been, to these particular branches of gospel truth, I do believe it is important for us to maintain our own ground, even in little things; and I think I have long observed, that where there has been a giving way in these, it has proved an inlet to greater weakness, and a means of undermining, gradually, the attachment to other important testimonies, which have been committed to us. Oh! that our Society had individually borne them with faithfulness and in the meekness of wisdom, and then, I believe the christian church would, ere this, have made greater advances than she has yet done, and her children, being less conformed to this world, would have made more successful resistance to the spread of evil, and have upheld, with boldness and dignity, the standard of their

holy Redeemer. Oh! when shall the professed followers of the Lord Jesus, have more of the mind that was in Him, and in great and small things, be more concerned to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they are called?

Twelfth Month 12*th*, *Third-day*. My husband has been closely engaged, of late, on the business of the poor negroes. The sittings of the delegates who were convened in London, lasted, I think, more than ten days, and were particularly interesting. There were about one hundred and eighty of them assembled from various parts of the three kingdoms; men of great variety of character, and of different religious denominations, but uniting, with cordiality and christian feeling, in the great cause which drew them together.

31*st*, *First-day*. This day, the last of an eventful year, brings with it many solemn considerations. It is a day, my dear husband and I would fain have spent together. He is at a distance, but brought near in spirit, and, I doubt not, his heart is humbled under the remembrance of those multiplied mercies, that have marked the year now passing away; and that his petitions have secretly ascended, on behalf of himself and us, that we may know the blessing of preservation and guidance in the time to come, whether it be long or short. May our hearts be more devoted to the Lord, and our spirits so quickened in his fear, that day by day, we may know the help of his Spirit, to teach us his will, and to guide our feet in the way of peace.

To E. K.

Peckham, *First Month* 2*nd*, 1838.

My beloved Friend,

When I received thy truly acceptable letter, it was far from my intention to suffer so long a time to elapse without answering it; I made up my mind several days since, that I would write on New Year's day; but this has passed away, and now it is the second of a month, which opens a new era in our lives. Very solemn and affecting to my mind, are the considerations that arise; yet, my dear friend, humiliating as is the view of my own little progress in the school of Christ, compared with the advantages and opportunities I have enjoyed, my heart is, I hope,

sensibly touched with the renewed conviction, that, unworthy as I am, the goodness and mercy of a long-suffering God have followed me all my life long, and that He still, in his infinite love, waits to be gracious, and seeks, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, to perfect that which concerneth me. Oh then! that I may have more faith in Him, and that this faith may bring forth more abundantly the fruits which are assuredly called for, and which are to the praise of the great Husbandman. Thus I write some of the thoughts of my heart in freedom to thee, dear E., who art, I doubt not, also earnestly desiring, that the advance of time may be marked by an increased acquaintance with those things that concern our eternal well-being. That in all things, the best blessings may rest upon thee and thy dear sisters, and that you may know what it is to be led safely along by the good Shepherd of the sheep, is my sincere and earnest wish for you. And in all your intercourse with his servants, may He give you, to feel the force of that scripture declaration, "One is your master, even Christ," and to remember, that however it may please Him to qualify any of his feeble instruments to speak to the edification or comfort of his people, He is himself the fountain of all good, and still teacheth, by his Holy Spirit, those, who, in simplicity and humility, wait upon Him.

I did not expect to be able to attend the Quarterly Meeting; but the almost summer-like weather, enabled me to get out. It was a very interesting time, in which E. J. Fry ministered to us, in a beautiful manner. She also received the sanction of the Quarterly Meeting, in a prospect of visiting France, particularly the city of Paris. E. Dudley is engaged in holding public meetings, in London and the neighbourhood, and last evening, she had one here. I had not been at any of them before, but last night, I ventured to go. Her communication contained a full, clear and forcible exhibition of the leading doctrines of christianity, brought home, in their practical bearing, to the consciences of those present; and I should think there were few, if any, there, who would not consider their responsibilities increased, by such a setting forth of the christian's faith and duty. . . . . .

I am thy truly affectionate,

MARIA S. FOX.

1838. *First Month 3rd, Fourth-day.* The commencement of a new year has produced in my mind very solemn and humbling reflections, whether I look at the irrevocable past, the important present, or the uncertain future. The opening of another period of our lives, of which we know not what may be the termination, or whether, before that arrive, our spirits may be called away from these mortal bodies, to appear before the Lord of all and give an account of the deeds done on earth, ought indeed to make us very serious, and to lead to deep searching of heart. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith, prove your ownselves. Know ye not your ownselves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates." This was the test proposed by an apostle to some of the early christians. What do I know of this efficacious faith, of this indwelling of the converting, renovating, sanctifying spirit of Christ our Saviour, of a conformity to his will, an abiding union with Him as the branch in the vine? I humbly trust I can say, that through the power of his grace, my heart is in some degree set upon heavenly things, and that my soul longs after more of the mind that was in our dear Redeemer, more of the humility, the meekness, the gentleness of Christ, more patience in tribulation, more joyfulness in hope, more fervency of love, more stedfastness of faith; but alas! in all these fruits of the Spirit, how disproportioned has been my progress, to the blessings and advantages bestowed. Oh! that my precious children may prize the day of early visitation, and seek, in the morning of their life, to be devoted wholly to the Lord.

5th, Sixth-day. I am much inclined naturally, to retrace the past, to dwell on the remembrance of events gone by; but though retrospection, under the teaching and with the restraints of that blessed Spirit that helpeth our infirmities, is a very profitable exercise of the mind, it is, when indulged as a natural bias, attended with peculiar temptations, particularly in relation to seasons of sorrow. The enemy takes advantage of the disposition to retrace the minute circumstances of these, in order to disturb the peace of the soul, to cloud its confidence, and to produce a sadness, unfavourable to the discharge of those duties of every-day, which are imperative and demand for their right performance the full energies of the mind. The sufferings of my

precious sister, in her long illness, and the many touching incidents of her sick chamber, and of that of my beloved father, twenty-four years ago, are presented to my mind with such a freshness and vividness, as to seem almost like a reality; and I am often obliged, by a strong effort, to turn from the contemplation of them. I want more of the faith that lifts the veil, that enables its possessor to leave all unprofitable cleaving to those things which are behind, and to reach forth unto those things which are before, pressing "toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." We are too apt to forget, that there is but a small step between mournfulness and murmuring. I desire that mine may be a cheerful, not a forced submission to the will of my Heavenly Father, and that I may seek, with humble confidence in his perfect wisdom, to leave the past with Him; endeavouring to inquire what is the lesson He designs to teach me, and how it may be applied to the present. It is not for us to inquire, why some of his devoted servants, who, to our apprehension, seemed to live with their loins girded about and their lights burning, should have to pass through such severe bodily conflicts, before the mortal tabernacle could be put off. When that glorious hope, full of immortality, is made perfect, surely, they do realize that which by faith they were, even here, enabled to believe, that all the afflictions of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory of their eternal inheritance. May we then be silent, and adore the Hand that hath done all things well concerning his servants, and gather from their experience, renewed strength and confidence, seeing that He who was their refuge, is still the same Lord over all, and is rich unto all that call upon Him.

22*nd*, *Second-day*. I have had but little leisure for writing, the last two weeks; but during that time, have been gladdened by the return of my beloved husband, bringing our dear M. with him. We are thankful to have our children once more all with us, and are solicitous to discover what will be the most satisfactory plan to pursue, with regard to their education. If it can be suitably carried on at home, we should prefer it, to parting with any of them,—at least, for some time to come. The society of children is very sweet and endearing, and many are the oppor-

tunities afforded to a parent, of endeavouring to cultivate right principles and affections. We have the comfort, at present, of seeing our dear boys prefer the society of their parents to every other, and their dutiful desire to do what we wish, is grateful, and amply compensates for the exertion inseparable from the care of lively children, whose energies want constant regulation and control. But whether they will have all that steadiness of government and wholesome discipline, in the hours of their dear father's absence, which is essential, admits of some doubt. In this respect, I feel my deficiency greatly, both from the want of proper judgment and decision, and the effects, oftentimes, of bodily weakness. In this and other important considerations, which now press seriously upon us, may we be favoured with direction from above!

Second Month 4th, First-day. My mind has been lately in a dark state, beset with doubts and unbelieving fears, whilst Satan, who is ever ready to aggravate the confusion and distress of the tossed soul, has not been wanting in temptations, to draw me into unwatchfulness, and to make more work for repentance, even if he cannot wholly succeed in his cruel devices. Oh, when shall I know my whole temper and spirit to be conformed to the image and will of Christ our Redeemer! There has been much need lately of more self-government, more meekness, humility and lowliness of mind, which would contrite the soul under a deep sense of its own multiplied transgressions, whenever the faults of others are brought into view.

At meeting, this morning, after an absence of five weeks. I sat under a humbling consciousness of my own slow progress in the christian course, if, indeed, I am not retrograding; and when E. D. enlarged on the want of willingness, in those who had been again and again invited to the feast the Lord provides for his people, fully to accept the offers of his grace and avail themselves of his bountiful preparation, my heart was smitten with something like the appropriating language of Nathan, "Thou art the man." How tender has been his care, how gracious his invitations to my soul, and what am I, after years of profession! Lord! be pleased to spare yet a little longer, and to dig about and dress the fig-tree, that it be not cut down, as utterly unfruitful.

To — —.

Peckham, *Second Month 5th*, 1838.

. . . . . And now, my beloved friend, I must advert to thy kind letter, which, thou needst not to be assured, is of a character that could not fail to call forth afresh my tender sympathy. I trust, my dear, the near affection and sincere friendship, we have long felt for thee, will indeed experience no diminution, and that if our path be, in some respects, different, we shall ever bear each other in remembrance for good, and continue earnestly to desire each other's progress towards that happy and heavenly country, where the Lord's redeemed ones are of one mind, as well as of one heart, and that in his own time, through the tender mercy of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, we, if we continue faithful, may be eternally united with those who are gone before us, and who are already made partakers of the fulness of blessing, in his glorious presence; and yet, I cannot but deeply feel the pang of parting, as to connexion in a religious society, here on earth. I believe I am not a bigot, at any rate, I desire to cherish no exclusive or uncharitable feeling towards those who differ in their views from us, but I cannot wrong the Society to which we belong, so far as to say, I do not think they who leave it, are giving up many substantial privileges and advantages which it affords to its members, or that there is not full scope for them to follow out the blessed principles of christianity, as laid down in the New Testament. If however, my beloved friend, thou judgest otherwise, and apprehendest thyself called to a different path, I can sincerely and most affectionately desire, that in the pursuance of what thou believest to be required of thee, every blessing may rest upon thee; and that thou mayst be made largely to partake of that peace, which our dear Redeemer still bestows upon his humble followers. . . . . In the hope to hear again from thee soon, I subscribe myself,

Thy very affectionate,

Maria S. Fox.

Third Month 1st, Fifth-day. Our minds have been closely exercised, of late, on the subject of our future place of residence;

more especially, as after many fruitless inquiries in both places, a house has now offered, both here and at Tottenham. The scale has preponderated in favour of the latter, the place we looked most towards, in the first instance; and I humbly trust, we may go forward in a little faith, that it is the right decision. After some conflict of mind on the subject, we seemed to feel a degree of quiet confidence, that in looking towards a settlement in that meeting, we were not turning aside from the path of duty, and that it would be safest for us to decide on taking a house there; though the only one at liberty, did not appear, on some accounts, very likely to suit us. The very day we came to this conclusion, (to look steadily towards Tottenham) we were informed of another house, in many respects more eligible, and this we have taken. Such, however, is the weakness of human nature, that no sooner was it fixed, than a flood of doubt and discouragement was poured into my mind, filling me, for a season, with anxiety and fears. I am, however, thankful to say, this cloud is mercifully passing away, and some ability is again afforded, to trust in the Lord, and to commit ourselves to his good keeping.

To M. F—r.

Peckham, 30*th of Third Month*, 1838.

My dear Friend,

. . . . . The weather is now so sweetly spring-like, that it is quite tempting to get out a little; and though the dense atmosphere of that crowded city lies between us, I trust thou wilt find it rather pleasant on this side; not, indeed, so much of country as in your neighbourhood, but presenting some cheering indications of a brighter season. Oh! that the vast moral field around us, were as susceptible of the renovating influences of divine grace, as quick to catch the soul-vivifying beams of the Sun of righteousness. But, alas! for man;—he, the noblest of his Creator's works, mars the beauty of that earth, that has been, in measure, subjected to his authority; and, under his perverted and often tyrannical sway, the whole creation does indeed groan; whilst, with ingenious, but short-sighted sophistry, he tries to make evil appear good, and puts darkness for light. Still, my beloved friend, there are cheering aspects and bright spots visible, and

one of them surely is the proof, at this moment afforded, that there are, in every department of the church and in the various classes of society, men, who, regardless of minor differences and overlooking party feelings and distinctions, will rally round the standard of justice and humanity, and, on christian principles, stand forth as the advocates of the defenceless and the oppressed. May the Lord bless their efforts, and give them their part in that precious promise, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." . . . . .

Thy affectionate,

M. S. Fox.

To E. S—h.

Peckham, *Fourth Month 2nd*, 1838.

My dear Friend,

I had been thinking much of thee and thy dear relatives at B——, after receiving thy message, but though aware you had reason to apprehend thy nephew in a sinking state of health, I was not fully prepared, so soon, to hear of the solemn close. It will, indeed, be a heavy trial to his affectionate father and sisters, and one that seems to have come rather suddenly upon them, at least, the disorder appears to have made rapid progress; but seeing that all these things are in the hand of a most tender and compassionate Father, who perfectly knows what is best, and whose eye takes in the end from the beginning, his dependent children are enabled to repose on his faithfulness, even in their bitterest trials, and are constrained, at seasons, to acknowledge, that He doeth all things well. This, I trust, will be the case with our dear friend, who is most immediately affected by this bereavement, and that he and his dear girls also, will be abundantly consoled in their affliction, and enabled to flee to that refuge, which is the only strong hold in the day of trouble. To thee, my dear friend, I know it will be a touching renewal of past sorrow, and will bring to thy remembrance, in a lively manner, the last days of his precious, departed mother, long since gathered to her heavenly home; but if the designs of divine love and mercy are accomplished respecting her beloved child, and he, through the infinite merits of *her* Redeemer, is re-united to her in a world of purity and love, surely there is reason to be

thankful on his account, and to bless the hand that has thus early removed him from the temptations and trials of this mortal state. Still, I know well, nature must and will feel deeply, every severing of the endearing ties to which we so fondly cling; and it is only the renewed operation of the Holy Spirit upon the heart, that can produce the language, "Thy will be done."

We endeavoured to consider the important subject of a change of residence, as fully and as seriously as we could, and certainly tried to look at a settlement here; but, after all, it seemed as if our original view of Tottenham could not be wholly turned from, and having earnestly desired, that in so important a step, we might not be permitted to mistake, I trust we may settle quietly in the belief, that we shall not be out of our right allotment; and that the Lord, whom we desire, unworthy as we are, to follow and to serve, will grant us the blessing of his preservation and guidance. That He may give us grace to receive all our comforts and all our trials also, with a humble reference to his good hand, is, I believe, the earnest and sincere desire of our hearts.

I am thy truly affectionate,

MARIA S. FOX.

Fourth Month 30th, Second-day. It is long since I wrote a memorandum of this sort, but apprehend it is a loss to myself, wholly to omit retracing, in this way, some of the varied circumstances that attend our path. I desire to write only a simple record of those events, by which our compassionate Heavenly Father is pleased to carry on his wise and needful discipline, with such reflections on the state of my own heart, as may serve to impress more deeply, the sense of his mercy to one so unworthy. I have often found, in low moments or when new trials seemed to threaten, comfort and encouragement in reviewing the steps by which we have been led hitherto, the deliverances experienced, the blessings vouchsafed, and the forbearing gentleness of the Lord, towards one of his weak and doubting, but I would humbly hope, in some measure, depending children; whilst the retrospect of my own conduct, in the varied circumstances of life, and the consideration, how far it has fallen short of the standard set up by our dear Redeemer, ought to humble me into the dust, and

does at times call forth a language, like that of one of the Lord's people, formerly, "Who am I, O Lord God! and what is mine house, that Thou hast brought me hitherto."

We came to Tottenham, last Fifth-day, not without a variety of feelings. To enter on an untried sphere, appears formidable, though after the earnest and, I trust, sincere desires we have felt to be directed aright, and the repeated proofs we have had of the loving-kindness of the Lord toward us, my mind is measurably sustained in quiet confidence, that we are under the care of our Heavenly Father for good, and that He has led us to the place which is really best for us. We come, indeed, under a strong sense, that trials must be expected wherever we dwell, if we would be found followers of a crucified Saviour; yet I have felt that we have cause reverently to bless the name of the Lord, and again to commit ourselves into his good hand.

CHAPTER XIII.

1838, 1839. Settlement at Tottenham—Yearly Meeting—Journey in Kent—D. Wheeler—Interment at Reading—Religious engagements in Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire—Return home—Memoranda—Quarterly Meeting's committee—Religious service in Beds and Herts—Yearly Meeting—Journey to Wellington—Letters.

Fifth Month. Soon after the last memorandum was written, we got settled into our new dwelling at Tottenham. We attended the Monthly Meeting at Epping, where our certificate was received from Somersetshire, and an appointment made to visit us. This was an introduction, as members of the meeting, which proved strengthening and comforting, though under a deep sense of poverty and emptiness, on our part. A degree of precious quiet has attended, and a feeling of love towards our friends, which, I trust, may be thankfully accepted, as something like an evidence, that we are not out of our right allotment.

Sixth Month. The Yearly Meeting was, to my apprehension, rather a low season ; yet, in great mercy, we were favoured with renewed proof, that backsliding as we are, the Lord hath not forsaken us as a people. My faith was put to the trial, by feeling it laid upon me to pay a visit to the men's meeting ; but the kindness of our great and good Master was extended in my weakness, and a truly valuable companion provided in our dear friend A. Lucas, who, soon after I ventured to cast the matter before the meeting, expressed her willingness to go also. S. Squire afterwards avowed a similar concern, which being united with, we went together, and were strengthened to impart what was the exercise of our minds, under a sense of weakness and in fear.

Shortly after the conclusion of the Yearly Meeting, the vacation of our dear boys commenced, and we were once more together.

Seventh Month. In the course of this month, after attending the "Morning Meeting," in London, at which our dear friend D. Wheeler was liberated for religious service in America,

we took a journey along the Kentish coast, our dear M. with us. At Canterbury, we fell in, unexpectedly, with the Monthly Meeting held there. Our minds were led into sympathy with the little company assembled, and we were not sorry for the few hours' detention it occasioned us. Proceeded, afterwards, to Broadstairs, where we stayed several days. On First-day, attended the meeting at Drapers, very small of itself, but now increased by the visitors from the neighbouring watering-places. This little assembly, composed of a variety of individuals from distant places, was, I trust, owned by the gathering influence of heavenly love. The following day, we left Broadstairs for Dover, remaining, for one night on the way, at Deal. Our windows commanded a fine sea-view, the interest of which was increased by the sight of the shipping lying in the Downs, some of them large vessels, bound for distant voyages. One, we were informed, was a transport, with a large number of convicts on board, whose mournful situation affected our hearts. On Third-day, we proceeded to Dover, and, on Fifth-day, crossed over to Boulogne, where our brother and sister Fox were staying with their family. The novelty of the scene, on landing, afforded interest to us all.

On Seventh-day, we returned to Dover. The morning was cloudy and blowing, with the wind against us ; but the desire of getting back to our dear children at home, and some little attraction towards the meeting at Dover, on First-day, helped us to decide, and I thought it a favour to have my poor mind staid in a degree of peaceful trust, that we might commit ourselves to the good keeping of Him, who rules the winds and waves. A strong head-wind occasioned us a good deal of sea, so that our little vessel pitched exceedingly, but in five hours and a half, we were favoured to make a safe entrance into the harbour. On First-day, we were at the two meetings at Dover. Several friends had arrived, in our absence, as visitors. The morning meeting was, I trust, a season of solemnity. In the evening, some persons, not of our Society, came in ; M. Baker spoke, on the parable of the pharisee and the publican, who went up to the temple to pray. Some addition was made, on the importance of being prepared for that great and solemn day, when all mankind must be classed either with the sheep or with the goats, and receive the final

sentence, that shall introduce them to endless happiness, or consign them to hopeless and interminable misery. We left Dover next morning, and had a fine, romantic ride to Folkstone and Sandgate, and thence, by Hythe to Ashford. The evening being fine, we enjoyed our ride amidst the fields and orchards of this beautiful county. On Fourth-day, we attended the meeting at Maidstone, and reached London on the following day, having the great comfort of finding our dear children in good health. For the many favours experienced in the course of this little journey, and the benefit derived from it, I hope we feel truly thankful.

On Sixth-day, D. W. and his daughter called on us, to take leave, before the former sails for Russia. We were favoured with a sweet season together, in which our minds were contrited, under a sense of the Lord's goodness towards his people, and the extension of his gracious care over them, in every part of the habitable earth.

Eighth Month 1*st*, *Fourth-day.* This morning is an interesting one, on several accounts. After the long struggle of the friends of the poor negroes, against the injustice and prejudice of their oppressors, it has at length been determined by the legislature of several of the islands, including Jamaica, that they shall, on this day, be set free. Oh! that the full benefits of the measure may be secured to them.

3*rd*, *Sixth-day.* At a meeting, appointed for S. Capper, amongst the poor inhabitants of Bethnal Green. It was held under a tent, and although long in collecting, was, in the end, large and very quiet. The gospel call went forth to different classes amongst them. Some, who, though poor in this world, might be rich in faith, were encouraged to hold on their way, and to look towards that better inheritance reserved for them in the world to come; whilst the poor sinner was invited to cast himself upon the free mercy of that Saviour who died for all, and to surrender himself to the cleansing operations of the Spirit. A large proportion of the people were men, and very attentive and serious in their behaviour. It is grateful to find some of the Lord's servants called to labour, particularly amongst this class, for whose condition, in this great metropolis and its environs, my heart is often

painfully affected. Oh! the wretchedness, the poverty and the sin, that overspreads a large portion of professing London! When, alas! shall the followers of Christ (or rather those who are called by his name) be brought to feel their responsibilities; or even his believing, and, in some measure, devoted people, become adequately sensible of what they owe to the poorest and the vilest of their fellow-creatures, *for his sake.* Surely, it is his design that the church on earth should follow out his great example, and be willing to spend and be spent, in the work of seeking to reclaim the wanderers, to succour the helpless, to comfort the mourners, and to turn souls to Him. Oh! for more of the spirit that was in the first christians, and of which the early Friends largely partook, a spirit of unshrinking courage and of true devotedness to the service of their Lord.

10*th*, *Sixth-day.* How difficult it is to maintain a calm and even temper, and what little things, at times, disturb the peace of the soul! Some perturbation of spirit, this morning, and the dear children not so orderly as I could wish. Great sympathy we ought to feel for them, when we consider our own waywardness and many backslidings; still, we ought to guard against an undue leniency, lest a spirit of carelessness should be fostered in them or in ourselves.

12*th*, *First-day.* Were at Westminster meeting; I thought it a heavy time, especially in the fore part. We sat under a sense of weight not easily described. Perhaps we missed it, in not going the week before, when we were sensible of some attraction, but suffered ourselves to be put by.

13*th*, *Second-day.* At the "Morning Meeting," where, I think, we were favoured with something of a uniting feeling, and some minds were brought into sympathy with those who are called to labour, at home or abroad.

Ninth Month 4*th*, *Third-day.* The return of this season, brings with it the lively remembrance of circumstances which we were passing through, three years since; yesterday having been the anniversary of my beloved sister's death. Have I made any progress in the christian life, since that time? and am I now diligently pursuing after holiness? I think my heart has been a little quickened, in some renewed desire after it, this day, and a

degree of ability has been mercifully afforded, to commit ourselves, again, into the hands of a compassionate and covenant-keeping God.

My mind has been, for some time past, attracted towards some of the meetings of Friends, in Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire, and after close examination of the subject, and the prevalence of many fears, it seems as if it might be best to cast it before our friends. My dear husband enters feelingly into the prospect, and will, I trust, be given up to unite in it. It is a close trial, to leave our precious children.

6*th*, *Fifth-day*. We have cause to be thankful, for the help afforded in communicating to the Monthly Meeting the prospect before us, and for the feeling manner in which it was received by our dear friends. We had been brought very low, in reference to it, and the apprehension, that in a few places, we may not be satisfied without endeavouring to have meetings with those not of our Society, increases the weight of the engagement. May we be kept in simple dependence and true watchfulness, and enabled to go on, step by step, in faith. The interment of our friend T. Bigg, is to take place next week, at Reading. We have had some thoughts of attending it, and I desire to be willing, if it be right, but am exceedingly reluctant to leave the dear children, when it can be avoided. On their accounts, my mind is often brought into much concern. May it please the Lord to influence their hearts, and to draw them by the tendering visitations of his love, to seek his favour and the knowledge of his will.

15*th*, *Seventh-day*. Went to Reading on the 12th. We were some time before we could make up our minds to go, and when there, were ready to wonder why we came, so destitute did we feel of any qualification to enter into true sympathy with, much less to afford comfort to, our friends. The next morning, we joined the company at the grave. A silent, but I think solemn season, whilst we stood beside the mortal remains of our deceased friend. Soon after we were seated in the meeting-house, dear S. B. was strengthened to return thanks for the belief, that her departed husband was gathered to the just of all generations. When she arose, that scripture was brought forcibly to my re-

membrance; "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all;" and standing up with it, some fresh ability was mercifully afforded, to bring into view the supports and consolations of the Lord's dependent children in all their times of trial, as well as to exhort those present, to a consideration of their latter end, and to the serious examination, whether they had solid ground for hope, that when that awful period should arrive, they would be admitted, through the tender mercy of God in Christ Jesus, to the blessed society above. I think we may gratefully acknowledge, it was a season of renewed favour. Spent the remainder of the day with the family. In the evening, a time of stillness was afforded, in which the visitation of heavenly love seemed to be afresh extended to some present.

25*th*, *Third-day.* Quarterly Meeting in London; an instructive and encouraging communication from dear E. J. F., in which she spoke of the means used for the rebuilding of the temple, and repairing the wall that had been broken down. The labourers met with much discouragement, and even some of themselves said, "The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish;" but they did not yield to this depressing view. They prayed much and worked much, and watched also, and though they found it hard labour to build with one hand, and with the other to hold a weapon, still they persevered, trusting in the Lord, and He was pleased to bless their work to the repairing of the breaches.

26*th*, *Fourth-day.* Left home for our journey into Buckinghamshire, &c., and arrived at Leighton.

27*th*, *Fifth-day.* The Quarterly Meeting small, but through the fresh extension of heavenly love and mercy, a time of some solemnity.

28*th*, *Sixth-day.* At the meeting near Woburn. A small company, for whom we felt much, and some ability was afforded to encourage the mournful ones to look up unto the Lord, who is the helper of the poor. To Newport Pagnell in the afternoon. We met the few Friends of this place, at the house of one of them. I trust, the little gathering was mercifully owned by the great Head of the church, who still vouchsafes his presence, at seasons, to the two or three.

29*th, Seventh-day.* Meeting at Olney. Solitary indeed, are these little meetings scattered about the country, but in attending them, we were, at times, made thankful in the belief, that the great and good Shepherd mercifully regards his flock in the wilderness, and that low as is their condition, He is yet disposed to bless them and to do them good. It was much our concern, to encourage these to a diligent waiting and a simple dependence, upon Him. Went on to Wellingborough. I had not been there for fifteen years, and found it very affecting to return to the house in which my beloved parents had lived, and where the days of my childhood were passed, under their tender and religious care.

30*th, First-day.* We pursued our plan of being at Finedon meeting this morning, passing over the ground, once so familiar. When I was a child, our meeting was held alternately, on First-days, at Wellingborough and Finedon, many Friends living at villages in the neighbourhood. A little company here, yet it was cheering to see some nice young people among them, for whose lonely, and, in many respects, disadvantageous situation, we felt much. Called on some friends after meeting, where we were kindly invited to dinner, and I believe we should have done better to have stayed, and yielded our minds to a feeling which was awakened towards the people of the village. The poor men, mostly, I apprehend, agricultural labourers, were standing at the corners of the streets, when we went to meeting, just as they used to do in years past, waiting probably till the bells summoned them to the parish church, or idling away their time without attending anywhere. Went back to Wellingborough, and were at meeting there in the evening, under feelings of great depression, on many accounts. Our minds brought into close examination, and strong desires raised in our hearts, that we might be favoured with right direction as to our movements,—that we might, in no wise, turn aside from the gentle intimations of the Lord's will, through impatience or unwillingness to suffer.

Tenth Month 1*st, Second-day.* After some hours of anxiety and wakefulness, we were brought to the belief, that we must offer to visit the few Friends at Wellingborough in their families, and no objection being made, we began immediately after breakfast.

2*nd, Third-day.* The Quarterly Meeting, small; but through

the overshadowing of that goodness which is ancient and new, a time of solemnity and renewed visitation. Some ability was given, to press home important truths on the consideration of those present, and to bring into view the awful condition of that vineyard, which, having been abundantly cared for by the Lord of it, is, because of unfruitfulness, left by Him to the inroads of every beast of the field, and even the clouds commanded that they rain no rain upon it. An earnest desire was expressed, that none might be found in the sad condition of this unfruitful vineyard; but that through submission to the baptizing and sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, they might yield themselves "unto God, as those that are alive from the dead." In the afternoon, paid several family visits, under a depressing sense of our own weakness.

3rd, Fourth-day. Went to Raunds, where we had requested a few of the inhabitants might be invited to the Friends' meeting-house. On arriving there, we learned that the friends who had gone over to give notice of the meeting, had been induced to accept the Methodist chapel, which had been pressed by some of the people, as more commodious than our own meeting-house. We had a long time of silent exercise, which seemed to ourselves likely to continue throughout the meeting; but at length, a little ability was granted, to speak of the necessity of waiting upon the Lord, for renewed qualification, in every act of service. The people were remarkably quiet and attentive, and we had an open time amongst them, in which the practical nature of true religion, and its influence on the heart and life, were particularly dwelt upon. Oh! that christian professors did more generally consider their high calling, and did more earnestly seek to be found walking in conformity with it! In the evening, were at a public meeting at Finedon; a laborious time, in which there was little sense of sweetness or refreshment of spirit. There seemed to be, in some hearts, a wall of opposition to the humbling doctrines of the cross; nevertheless, the call went forth to the hardened sinner, to repent and return unto the Lord; and the danger of being satisfied with a mere outward profession of religion, was also pointed out.

4th, Fifth-day. Visited the rest of the few families at Wel-

lingborough, and attended their week-day meeting, in which we were favoured with a little help, to cast off some of the load that had pressed heavily on our minds, in this place. It was a tendering season, in which the visitation of divine love was, I believe, renewed to some. Oh! how many long, wilderness wanderings does the poor soul often bring upon itself, for want of closely and faithfully following its heavenly Leader, and how wearisome the steps that have to be retraced, if the true rest is attained at last! May the Lord, in his great mercy, work abundantly, where human help seems to fail! Some feeling towards the inhabitants of my native place, was prevalent, at times, in my mind, during our stay; but the two meetings of the preceding day, had left the body a good deal exhausted, and, on the whole, we felt as if we might be pretty easy to pursue our journey.

5th, Sixth-day. At Kettering meeting. Another little company; but, after a considerable time of painful, silent exercise, we were strengthened to labour amongst them, and I trust the meeting was graciously owned by the great Head of the church, whose compassions fail not. There were present, some for whom our minds were especially interested, in the desire that they might be favoured to lay firm hold of the anchor that is both sure and stedfast, pressing through all discouragements, to touch, as it were, but the hem of their Saviour's garment. Whether we might not have found satisfaction in visiting some of these at their homes, has since been matter of inquiry with me; but it is a nice point, to allow time enough for each place, in going along in this way, without loitering or relaxing from the diligence it is important to maintain. It is one of our trials of faith, to be able to see but a very little way before us, whilst it is often necessary, where meetings have to be changed or friends apprised, to look forward. Went to Northampton.

7th, First-day. At meeting, in the morning, under close exercise of mind, which there seemed no opening to cast off. A concern towards the families of Friends and the inhabitants of this place, had been a good deal with me, before leaving home, and now seemed to rise up as a mountain in the way. Something was said about a public meeting, but it was thought more time would be needful, and my faith was too low to press any-

thing being arranged for this evening. At the close of the meeting, our view of visiting the families of Friends was mentioned, and being united with, we began this afternoon.

9*th*, *Third-day*. Closely engaged, in the family visits and attending the Monthly Meeting; a low, proving day. Went through the families here, under a deep sense of our own poverty and weakness, yet were mercifully strengthened, from time to time, to enter into sympathy with a variety of conditions amongst those who compose this meeting.

11*th*, *Fifth-day*. Went to Bugbrook, where a marriage was to take place. The novelty of the circumstance drew together a crowd of people, who came with ignorant curiosity, as to a sight, but when seated in the meeting, were more quiet than at first appeared probable. After some time of silence, a short petition was offered; and the way seemed open for communicating what was the exercise of our minds towards the people, who were very attentive and serious, and the meeting ended under a feeling of solemnity, which was cause for humble thankfulness. Visited, afterwards, an aged friend, who had been deprived by death, of her husband and a large family of grown-up children, the young people going off rapidly in consumption; we felt much for her. Went forward to Byfield, and took tea with a friend who resides there, deprived entirely of the use of his lower limbs, so as to be unable to rise from his chair; a man in the meridian of life, and much the support of the family of one of his brothers, who has been removed by death.

12*th*, *Sixth-day*. At the week-day meeting, at Eydon; a small company, but a time of some precious feeling, in which the solitary ones were encouraged to lay hold on the strength that may be, from time to time, mercifully afforded; and the renewed offers of heavenly love and pity, went forth to some who might be conscious of having wandered from the path of safety. Diverged a little from the road, in returning to Northampton, to see S. and E. Simons, in their solitary home. William Simons, their father, was rather a remarkable character; well-known to me, in my early days, as a frequent visitor at my dear parents' house;—a venerable man, of strong natural understanding, though without the advantages of education. He was much engaged in the work

of the ministry, and was a frequent attender at funerals, and on other occasions, that were likely to draw people together. His extensive and accurate knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, was often striking to those who might be ready to despise the homeliness of his exterior, and his almost uncouth appearance. His income was very small, but with a contented mind, enough for his wants, and he had always a comfortable bed and a welcome for Friends travelling on religious service. This valuable man suffered much from the oppressive exactions of the parish priest, who was a young man of illiberal mind, and availed himself of the utmost allowance of the law, taking, for a demand of thirteen-pence half-penny per year, and the fines permitted by the Ecclesiastical Court for non-payment of the same, a piece of land on which W. S. kept his horse. This, he retained upwards of nine years, and subjected his venerable and justly respected neighbour, to the inconvenience of going a distance of two miles (when he came weary from his journeys) to a plot of ground he hired for the keep of his horse. The case was long under the notice of Friends, and visits were paid, at different times, to the clergyman, with little effect. My dear father and the late Frederick Smith, went to Peterborough, and had an interview on the subject with Dr. Madan, then bishop of the diocese. The bishop gave them a very kind and christian-like reception, expressing his regret that any of the clergy under his superintendence, should have so little regard for conscientious scruples, and engaged to write the clergyman a letter of remonstrance, which there was reason to believe he did. After the plot of ground was restored, I believe W. S. was not again troubled in the same way.

14*th*, *First-day.* At meeting at Northampton, this morning; in which we were enabled, in some degree, to cast off that which seemed like the burden of the day, towards the members of this interesting meeting. Oh! that those among them, on whom the Lord has laid his hand, and to whom He has clearly spoken the language, "Follow thou me," might be faithful to his call, and not yield to the pressure of surrounding discouragements. In the evening, went in much poverty, but with a quiet feeling for which we could not be too thankful, to the public meeting. The evening was so wet, that a small attendance was expected, but

we found the meeting-house nearly filled with a quiet, orderly company. There was a solemn feeling prevalent from the beginning; and the word of consolation was addressed to some of the Lord's afflicted children. My mind does so exceedingly shrink from these public services, and faith is oftentimes so low, that every renewed proof of the Lord's condescending goodness, ought to humble me as into the dust. How compassionate is the great and good Shepherd, who graciously continues to lead us and provide for us! and, notwithstanding all our haltings and stumblings, proves Himself, again and again, an all-sufficient helper, when the trust is simple, and the eye single unto Him. Oh! for more of this singleness of eye, and a more realizing sense of the blessed promise annexed to it: "If thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light."

15*th*, *Second-day*. Set off for Buckingham. Went out of the direct road, to see a friend's family, living six miles from any meeting and the wife long confined by sickness; stayed an hour with them, and then proceeded on our way. There is a satisfaction in visiting the lonely ones, though it be but to sympathize secretly in their difficulties and discouragements. I thought it a favour, to quit my native county with a peaceful feeling, though with a sense of interest so strong, that I thought I could be freely given up to further labour in it, if any of the feeble ones might be thereby encouraged, or those who have been too supine, in some degree awakened to a sense of their individual responsibilities, and of the nature of that vocation wherewith they are called. Notwithstanding the low state of things, we were led to believe, a renewed visitation is extended to some in these parts, and that the Lord, who is rich in mercy, is still seeking to comfort Zion, and to build her waste places. An evening meeting with the little company of Friends, at Buckingham. We were entire strangers to most, if not all of them, and sat down under such a feeling of emptiness and poverty, that I was ready to think we had better not have appointed the meeting. After a time, the subject of the Lord's merciful design, in visiting his people with afflictions, was a little opened, and those who were under chastening, were encouraged to look unto Him. Other states were addressed, and we had cause renewedly to acknowledge the Lord's goodness.

16*th*, *Third-day.* Went to Leighton Buzzard, and rested, the remainder of the day, with our kind relatives, J. and H. Grant, old friends of my dear parents. I was glad of the opportunity of being under their roof.

17*th*, *Fourth-day.* At meeting with Friends of Leighton. A renewed call to the dear young people, and of warning to some others who may be in danger from the temptations of the enemy. The reply of our Lord to Satan, when he dared to assail even Him with the assertion, "All these things will I give Thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me," was brought into view. Proceeded, in the afternoon, to Berkhampstead, where we had requested the week-day meeting might be put off till evening; but found the individual to whom the letter was addressed, was from home, so that we were not expected. However, most of the Friends met together, and I believe, we saw nearly all the members of this meeting, who were at home.

18*th*, *Fifth-day.* Went to the meeting at Chesham; very small, and a low season; called afterwards to see a friend confined by illness. In the afternoon, to High Wycombe, where a meeting was appointed at six o'clock. We felt much for the little company here, and had a quiet meeting, in which, though we had not much to communicate, there was some precious sense of the Lord's continued mercy.

19*th*, *Sixth-day.* Came from High Wycombe to Uxbridge, and from thence home. We were favoured to arrive safely, and to find our dear children well. For this, and for many blessings that have been bestowed upon us, we desire that we may feel humbly thankful; and that the review of our late journey may be made deeply instructive to our minds. May the assistance graciously afforded, strengthen our faith, and the omissions and haltings, lastingly impress the necessity of simple dependence, and child-like obedience to that which is clearly manifested, though it may be under feelings of great weakness. When creaturely reasonings are once given way to, the enemy pours them in like a flood, and, in the low condition of our poor Society in many places, there is the utmost need for all who go forth to labour, to strive to hold fast every part of the armour, with which they may have been, in some degree, invested. My mind has been much impressed in passing along, chiefly perhaps, from a painful

sense of deficieney in my own particular, with the importanee of faith, and the neeessity for using it, though it may seem very low. Does not the reply of our Lord to his disciples, when they said, "Inerease our faith," seem to intimate that if they were willing to exereise the grain they had, it would be found to have in it an overeoming power. "If ye had faith, as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this syeamine tree, Be thou plueked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea, and it should obey you."

To — —.

Tottenham, *Tenth Month 26th*, 1838.

. . . . . How important it is, thou shouldest live in the constant fear of offending thy Heavenly Father, whose love is so great to us, and who has so bountifully showered his blessings upon thee; and I desire that sueh a grateful sense of all his mereies, may be raised in thy heart, as that thou mayst endeavour to be found walking in the way that is well-pleasing in his divine sight, remembering that his eye is always upon us. There is one point, on which I have wished to give thee a word of counsel; not so mueh beeause I think thee in fault in this respeet, as beeause, where many young persons are together, they are apt sometimes to indulge in conversation, without much eonsidering the tendeney of it. I believe it is very important for us all, and especially so for the young, to keep up a very solemn sense of the awful nature of the Divine Being, and of the deep reverenee with which, we, poor mortals, should think and speak of Him who is so infinitely exalted above all; and that we should never allow ourselves to speak lightly, either of our great Creator's name, or of those things which relate to our eternal state; beeause, by sueh means, the mind may be brought, by degrees, to disregard the most solemn subjeets. These thoughts have arisen, in part, from hearing thee relate one or two stories, which, though they may be met with in history or other books, are best not dwelt upon or repeated. By keeping a guard over thy words and thoughts in this respeet, thou wilt be strengthened to resist temptation, which is always at hand in some way or other, and whieh we cannot overeome in our own strength; but, if we ask

the Lord for help, He will grant it us, and will bless the watchfulness of a mind that desires to live in his fear all the day long. . . . . .

M. S. F.

Eleventh Month 5th, Second-day. My heart is often humbled in gratitude, under a sense of the Lord's goodness, in providing us a home, in most respects, so well suited to our health and convenience, and in placing us amongst friends, who are disposed and qualified to enter into sympathy, under the exercises that may attend. When I look back to the many fears we entertained, lest we should mistake our allotment, or be, in any degree, choosing for ourselves, I cannot but feel, with double force, the comfort of believing, as I trust we may, that the Lord condescended to direct us into that place which He saw to be best for us. Oh! that there may be an increase of desire to serve Him in all things, as He may appoint, and to submit to every discipline He sees to be needful for us; that we may be freely given up to his government and guidance, who is exalted above all.

17*th, Seventh-day.* Our minds have been, for the most part, in a state of poverty, since we returned home; yet enabled to take some peaceful enjoyment in the comforts it affords, and to review, with gratitude, the mercies and favours that have attended us. A desire is at times raised, that we may be found faithfully occupying, in this time of comparative rest, with whatever is committed to our trust, and be made, in some way, useful to our fellow-creatures, many of whom stand in need of help, encouragement and sympathy. The state of the poor, in this neighbourhood, makes it much more difficult, satisfactorily to relieve their outward miseries, than in a place like Wellington, where they were pretty generally known to us. To ascertain the truth is no small difficulty, and to find out the objects who most need the help of others.

20*th, Third-day.* Desires were raised in my heart, on first waking this morning, after supplies of heavenly wisdom, to direct us in the important duty of training our beloved children. Full of affectionate feeling, but, as is natural at their age, active, energetic, and often impetuous, they demand a judicious firmness

tempered with meekness and discretion. I am sadly wanting in a uniform and prompt decision, by which means, I often make trouble for myself and perhaps for them too. Besought the Lord that He would strengthen me to perform my duty in his fear, and had some sweetness in the remembrance of his multiplied mercies towards one so unworthy.

24*th, Seventh-day.* How many errors are occasioned by the disposition of mankind to dogmatize in religion,—to frame theories of their own, on points not fully revealed to us, and which we can never comprehend, until that solemn period, when the veil shall be removed, and we shall know even as also we are known. In the mean time, it is the part of the true believer, to receive, with humility, the mysterious truths of christianity, and to rest in the assurance, that what may now appear to our finite understandings, incomprehensible or even contradictory, will then be found in perfect harmony with all the holy attributes and adorable perfections of God. But human wisdom is *unwilling to wait;* and so, systems are proposed, and the simple-hearted are perplexed about that which it is of little importance to them, individually, to know, whilst there may be some danger of neglecting those plain, practical, heart-searching truths, that ought to press on our most serious and attentive consideration. Christ himself has said, "If therefore, thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light." Oh! that we had a more single eye to the leadings of the great and good Shepherd; then we should see clearly the things which belong to our soul's peace, and what part He may condescend to assign us, in the carrying on of his work in the earth. Not that I would undervalue clear views of scriptural truth, for I believe we have suffered and do still suffer, as a Society, for want of more attention to the various parts and different branches of it; but man is apt to run on into extremes, and is not satisfied to stop, where it is evidently the design of infinite wisdom that his knowledge should be limited. The condition of the heathen, to whom the knowledge of an outward revelation has not been granted,—the subject of man's free agency, and of election, "according to the foreknowledge of God the Father," are far above our limited power of comprehension; but the Holy Scriptures abundantly testify of the good-

ness and mercy of God, and of the fulness and freeness of that salvation which comes by Jesus Christ, who, we are expressly told, tasted death for every man. Most beautifully and evenly is the balance held, in the language of the inspired volume. Oh! that men would reverently receive all that is there unfolded, and leave the unfathomable with Him, to whom, we are assured, "secret things belong." The three following texts, taken in connexion, appear to me very striking, as illustrative one of another. "Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out," John vi. 37. "No man can come to me, except the Father, which hath sent me, draw him," John vi. 44. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me," John xii. 32.

Twelfth Month 2nd, First-day. My thoughts were a good deal turned, as they have been, at different times since our return home, to consider some of the omissions in our late engagement. I have been ready to think, I must be given up to go to Northampton again, and have at least another meeting with the inhabitants. But it is fearful work, and a very serious thing to mistake one's calling, especially when home duties are constant and imperative, and such I feel mine to be, with three dear boys to care for. Into how many difficulties, do unbelief and impatience lead!

3rd, Second-day. An interesting day with our dear children. I was led earnestly to desire their preservation from the snares laid by the great enemy of all good. In the evening, mentioned to my dear husband, my thoughts and feelings about Northampton. Whether it is right now to return, or to leave the things that are behind and endeavour to be more watchful for the future, is the point I desire to be directed in. May it please the Lord to guide and keep an unworthy creature!

5th, Fourth-day. Went to Gracechurch Street Monthly Meeting. A considerable time of silence, in which I thought a precious degree of uniting feeling prevailed.

8th, Seventh-day. For some days past, in a state of anxiety on several accounts, fears and apprehensions taking possession of my mind; but this morning, some little ability seems afforded, to cast all into the Lord's hand, who has been so very merciful to

us, who can care for us and ours, even unto the end, and make all the trials which He may see meet to appoint or to permit, subservient to the purposes of his grace. If the Lord, for a moment, withdraw his sustaining power, my soul will again become a prey to the tempter, who knows how to magnify *himself* by magnifying our discouragements. May I seek hourly for that strength, in which alone we can successfully resist him. The apostle declared, the shield of faith was able "to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked;" and is not this shield freely offered, through the tender mercy of the Lord, even to the feeblest of those who love Him in sincerity.

23*rd*, *First-day*. Indisposition has confined me to the house for nearly a fortnight. Last Fourth-day, my S. F. left us for Wellington. We were favoured with a sweet season before he set out, when the renewed sense of our Heavenly Father's love was mercifully granted. Oh, how this sweetens every cup! I was very thankful for such a favour, having particularly felt the prospect of parting with my beloved husband at this time; but when we have reason to believe, we are in our right places respectively, we may be encouraged to trust, help will not be withheld in time of need. I find it very sweet to have the dear children about me, though their activity of body and mind, keeps me fully employed. Thought it a comfort to sit down with my dear friends at meeting, though in much poverty myself. It is no small favour to be placed amongst those who are sympathizing and affectionate, and to have some on whom we can lean, as far as it may be safe to lean on mortals, for solid judgment and counsel. "Cease ye from man," is a language that has surely been sounded in our ears, as a people, by those things that have been permitted to befall us; and I desire, we may increasingly seek to have our dependence on the Lord alone; nevertheless, those whom He qualifies for important stations in the church, are to be esteemed highly, and the elders counted worthy of double honour.

25*th*, *Third-day*. Quarterly Meeting; very large, and a time in which we were favoured with renewed evidence, that the Lord has not forsaken us, in our low estate.

30*th*, *First-day*. At our own meeting; where I thought

there was some solemnity, and a little fresh sense of the merciful extension of the love of God in Christ Jesus.

1839. *First Month 8th, Third-day.* After a separation of three weeks, I am anticipating the return of my dear husband. Some grateful sense of the favours bestowed and the help afforded to me, in his absence. May there be returns of faithfulness and obedience to our Heavenly Father, who crowneth the year with his goodness. Earnestly desired, this morning, that I may be enabled to fulfil my private duties with diligence, and that my beloved companion may receive from me that comfort and strength, which a right union is undoubtedly designed to afford.

9th, Fourth-day. My dear S. F. reached us yesterday. I believe our hearts are made truly thankful for the privilege of being permitted to meet again, and a mutual desire felt, that we may bring forth the fruits of faith, to the praise of the great Husbandman. The accounts of our dear relatives interesting, and the various proofs of their love grateful. My husband brings a pleasant report of some of the poor people, in whose welfare we were interested, when living at Wellington. Several of the poor men, who have been reclaimed through the instrumentality of the Total Abstinence Society, appear to be going on very satisfactorily, and, it is hoped, making some steady advances in religious experience.

10th, Fifth-day. Our Monthly Meeting, at which we had the company of several of the committee of the Quarterly Meeting. The object of their visit was opened in a joint conference, and after solidly considering the subject, several friends were appointed to unite in it. A weighty engagement! may it prove to the comfort and edification of many. Our names both stand on the Monthly Meeting's committee. It did not seem safe wholly to shrink, though I do not expect to take much part in the service.

22nd, Third-day. With change of place, our circumstances vary; and, if exempted from some trials that have formerly attended our path, it is to be expected new ones will arise, and the enemy also will change his temptations and adopt fresh methods of assault. This life is, to the christian, the scene of

his warfare, not of his rest. For several years, my dear husband and myself had many close provings and conflicts of spirit, in connexion with the agitated state of our Society; but I have generally felt restrained from committing much respecting them to writing. We had the unspeakable comfort of being united in one mind and one judgment, and we felt the importance of not aggravating our feelings under it, by detailing circumstances, even in this private manner. Self may be fed by recounting our trials, which we are apt enough to dwell upon and pore over. If they spring, in any measure, fr m our attachment to what appear to us important principles, we are in danger of considering all our disquiets and uneasiness, as sufferings for the truth's sake; whereas, they may be partly produced by our indulgence of unchristian disposition, or by the prevalence of unmortified self-love. In this way, we may deceive ourselves, and increase our discouragements, whilst an endeavour to number our blessings, and stir up the mind to a grateful remembrance of the Lord's mercies, is both animating and humbling. In our present position, we are necessarily brought more into contact with the body at large, and have an opportunity of observing the effect of opposite views in both directions. Oh, how craftily does the adversary work! representing that as *all-important* to one, which, with equal success, he exhibits to another, as of *no importance at all.* He cares not in what direction we wander, if he can but turn us out of the strait path, and rob us of that peace, which is to be sought in simply following our heavenly Leader, in the obedience of faith. When he cannot shake the mind from a stedfast attachment to what it has proved to be good and valuable, he sometimes seeks to busy it too much with externals, or so to depress it with gloomy and discouraging views, as to obstruct the lively exercise of faith and hope, and the growth of other precious fruits of the Spirit. It is true, there are discouragements enough. Such a mass of heterogeneous opinions, contradictions, and inconsistencies amongst men, that we might well sink at the view, were it not for that consoling and strengthening assurance of the Lord Jesus, that his sheep shall know his voice, and that He will give them such a discriminating knowledge of it, as shall enable them to distinguish it from the voice of the stranger. It is the policy of the enemy

to raise a clamour, that men may not hear or may not attend to, this gentle and in-speaking voice. He knows how to take every advantage, and to turn opposite circumstances to his own account, and perhaps is now seeking to hinder the progress and to lessen the usefulness of some in our Society, by unduly casting them down.

We often hear it said, and are too apt to say ourselves,—the times in which we live are peculiar; without sufficiently considering, that in every age of the church, there have been afflictions deemed peculiar by those on whom they fell; therefore the apostle Peter says, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you." What are our sufferings, when compared to those of the first followers of Christ! They endured a great fight of afflictions,—and how? Not by giving way to gloomy fears, uttering doleful complaints, or casting reproaches one upon another. They put on "the breastplate of faith and of love, and for an helmet, the hope of salvation," and nobly pressed toward the mark for the prize of their high calling; and surely, it is with the same heavenly armour we must be equipped, if we would maintain our posts as good soldiers of Christ Jesus. Let us not then pore over each other's errors, but rather seek for more of that grace which will enable us to detect our own. I think I never felt more strongly than at present, the necessity for all who seek the welfare of our Society, to endeavour to follow diligently their individual path of duty, as it may be clearly made known to them, looking as little as possible to the right hand or to the left. Oh, for a single eye and a simple heart! but how deficient am I herein! We know who it is that hath said, "If therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light."

27*th*, *First-day*. A very unprofitable state of mind this morning; wandering thoughts and great deadness and dryness of spirit. Feared I should leave the meeting without partaking of any refreshment, but at length, my dear husband was strengthened to offer a prayer for those of whom it might be said, "the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." This petition for the help and the strengthening of the weak, and for the Lord's gracious power to overcome their soul's enemies,

tendered and contrited my hard heart; and I was thankful for some secret persuasion, that the Lord is merciful to his feeble and unworthy children; visiting their souls with his love, even when they seem unable availingly to cry, "Give us this day our daily bread"

28*th*, *Second-day.* My mind was filled with anxiety, on waking this morning. Oh! that all anxieties and fears may be brought in faith to the divine footstool! but for the ability to do this, we must wait and seek. In times of deadness and unprofitableness, there is an exercise for faith and patience. May I never forget this, but endeavour, in the changes of season, to cherish a confiding spirit. "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart," was the language of David.

Second Month 5*th*, *Third-day.* On the evening of this day week, our friends P. B. and R. B. came to Tottenham, to begin the visit. They called at our house unexpectedly, to see if we could go with them to our neighbour A. H.'s. My husband was poorly, but was desirous I should go, and more from an unwillingness to refuse the invitation of these friends who were entering on their labour of love, than from being sensible of much attraction myself, I complied. This visit seemed to be the means of bringing the exercise of this engagement more closely upon me, and I have since been with these friends and others to several families.

11*th*, *Second-day.* The greater part of the visits to the families here, is now accomplished: in some of them especially, we were, I think, afresh made sensible of the extendings of heavenly love; but it is indeed a weighty service, and though, in this case, an appointment of the church, and shared with other friends whose minds were more or less prepared for the work, it has been a time of some close exercise as well as of humiliation, under a sense of my own unworthiness and of the dangers that attend us on every side. May it please the Lord to keep us under the shadow of his wing, and to guard us on every hand!

17*th*, *First-day.* On the whole, a comfortable day. Was led to desire preservation from the dangers attendant on ministers, in these large meetings.

20*th*, *Fourth-day.* Secret prayers were put up to the Lord, that He would give me good judgment in the management of our dear children, and firmness to administer the discipline that is required. It is a nice point, to attain the happy medium between undue restraint and weak indulgence.

24*th*, *First-day.* My husband gone with R. F. to Epping. I thought I felt some little inclination to be with the small company there, before I knew of their intention; but an attack of indisposition rendered it unsuitable. It is well to be made sensible, at times, of the *restraining* as well as of the *constraining* hand of the great and good Shepherd.

Third Month 8*th*, *Sixth-day.* A sharp attack of indisposition has suspended my diary, and has augmented the debt of gratitude to that bountiful Lord, who has so tenderly supplied my every need; and now, for all these favours, and for the comfort of being once more able to join my dear husband and children in the family, I desire to render unfeigned thanks.

In the course of this spring, Maria Fox obtained the concurrence of her Monthly Meeting, for paying a visit, in conjunction with her friend Rachel Forster, to Friends of the Quarterly Meeting of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, as well as for some religious service, beyond our own Society. This engagement is very briefly adverted to, in the next memorandum.

Fifth Month. "Return unto thy rest, O my soul! for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee," is a language that sometimes arises, since returning from a visit to Friends in the Quarterly Meeting of Bedford and Herts, in company with my beloved friend R. F. We moved along in much love, and with a sweet feeling of unity, though under a sense of great weakness; visited the families at Hertford, Hitchin and Luton, and attended the several particular meetings. My dear husband did not see his way to unite in this service, having felt his mind attracted towards the Yearly Meeting in Dublin. I trust we had cause to believe, we were neither of us out of the path cast up for us, by

Him who mercifully orders the way of such as sincerely desire to be led aright. Many proofs are afforded, of the compassionate care and kindness of the Lord, towards the weakest of those who put their trust in Him; their feeble endeavours to serve Him, being, at times, owned to their humbling admiration, their every want supplied, and their faith, though often so low that it does not seem to equal the grain of mustard-seed, confirmed by the help afforded them in times of need, so that they can make the grateful acknowledgment, that they have lacked nothing. On entering afresh into the duties of home, and partaking of its comforts together, fresh temptations present themselves. Oh! that we may humbly seek for preservation from them all; that we may neither settle down into the love of ease and indulgence, nor be unduly absorbed by daily cares and occupations.

Our dear niece H. A. F., who has been long in a suffering state, is at length released from the bonds of mortality. She has been sustained in great patience and quietude, and comforting evidence afforded, of her gradual preparation for a better inheritance.

21*st, Third-day.* Attended two sittings of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, yesterday; my own mind barren and unprofitable; not capable of deriving much comfort or instruction from this privilege. I thought it was pleasant to see the faces of many dear friends, and to sit down with them once more in this collective capacity, but fear my love is not like that the apostle speaks of, when he says, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." I think my heart is not dead to the social affections; but what do I know of the true love, which unites in one the humble followers of the Lord Jesus, makes them tender-hearted one to another, and enables them to look with meekness and charity on each other's infirmities.

Sixth Month 7th, Sixth-day. The Yearly Meeting has passed over; to myself for the most part, a low season. The business of the meetings was conducted in harmony, and, I trust, there were renewed proofs, that however low our condition, we are not a forsaken people; but in my own particular experience, it was a time of depression and temptation. Perhaps, if the grain of faith

had been kept in exercise, I might have felt more strengthened and refreshed, and my spiritual enemies might have had less power to mar the peace of my soul. My health was rather below par, and my thoughts much turned towards our dear children: felt it delightful to return from the bustle of the crowded city, in the afternoons, and breathe the pure air of the garden with them.

On Fifth-day week, I stayed in London all day, and in the evening meeting, was enabled to give expression to an exercise which had been felt for some time, without the courage or the faith to cast it off. On getting home afterwards, found our dear S. very poorly with fever and sore throat. It increased rapidly, and has proved a severe illness. The suffering of our beloved child has been great, from the swelling and inflammation of the throat. We have cause to acknowledge, with humble gratitude, that we were favoured with some precious sense of the tender mercy of our Heavenly Father, and the secret prayer was raised in our hearts, that we might be enabled to commit the event to his all-wise disposal; but it has been a time of close proving. On Fourth-day last, there was an obvious improvement in the symptoms, and since that time, a steady progress towards recovery. Yesterday, was the dear child's birth-day, completing his ninth year. My mind was affected by the consideration, that very different feelings would have been ours, if the discouraging symptoms that had shown themselves, had not been arrested, and, I hope, some acknowledgment of the Lord's mercy towards us, was secretly made.

Eighth Month. My employments have been very various, since the last date. Attention to the dear boys occupied me pretty fully to the end of the Sixth Month, when we set out for Wellington. The day before we left London, was our Quarterly Meeting, in which it seemed laid upon me, in great fear, to propose a visit to the men's meeting. This being united with, R. S. acknowledged a willingness to accompany me. It was a very serious thing to me, but, I trust, we had fresh cause for thankfulness, in the feeling that was permitted to attend.

We were favoured to reach home safely, and, I hope with thankful hearts, on the 27th of last month.

18*th*, *First-day.* Went with my husband to Plaistow. We

had for some time felt a little attraction to this meeting, and this morning, it seemed as if it might be best to make the effort. Sat down in great poverty, but were permitted to feel something of the renewed extendings of heavenly love, which led to the acknowledgment of gospel interest for some present.

20*th, Third-day.* Many causes of solicitude at present exist. Public affairs are dark and discouraging, in many ways; commercial perplexities great, especially for those engaged in manufactures. The unsettled state of the labouring classes in the north of England, is another serious feature in the aspect of the times, and though no such difficulty presents at W., where the sight of a contented and attached set of labourers is very gratifying, yet the probability of their comforts being lessened by the want of employment, is not the less felt. What a consolation it is to know, that all is in the hand of One, whose mercies are new every morning, and who, notwithstanding the abounding of iniquity, yet condescends to care for us. Nevertheless, I am often led to take a serious view of our condition as a people. Surely, a country so remarkably favoured, has reason to expect national punishment for continued unfaithfulness and ingratitude, if not rebellion against the Lord. "You only have I known of all the families of the earth, therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities," was, I think, the language to a people formerly.

To — —.

Tottenham, 26*th of Eighth Month,* 1839.

. . . . . I am glad to find, by thine, thou art again agreeably settled in the domestic circle; and that objects of interest are to be found there, fully adequate to the occupation of thy time, I can easily believe, for where there is a desire to be employed usefully, every place furnishes a sphere of action that may well engage the grateful and contented mind. I am sorry to learn, thy health has not been so good of late, as it was some time since. Be assured, this and other subjects connected with thy present circumstances, are interesting to me, and I much desire that on unprofitable anxiety may be permitted to injure body or

mind. The one nearly affects the other, as I well know by my own experience, and it is a favour to be assured, that we are not called upon to take more thought for the morrow than is consistent with a desire to fulfil our daily duties, in simplicity and with diligence. If we are willing to let our path be chosen for us, and marked out by Him who knows best what will most conduce to our real welfare, He will not fail, in his abundant love and mercy, to make it sufficiently plain before us in his own time, or to support us under whatever trials or difficulties are to be encountered in it; so that, my dear, the present desire of my heart for thee and for myself is, that we may be patient and submissive in the Lord's hand, seeking chiefly to know, more and more, what it is to be conformed to his will. This is, indeed, no easy matter, to such poor, frail creatures as we are; for, however we may, one moment, apprehend, that such a holy conformity is the prevailing desire of our hearts, we shall probably find, in the next, that we have yet a strong will of our own, and that it is ever rising up in opposition to that sort of discipline which is the most needful for us. That was a high attainment in christian experience, to which the apostle had arrived, when he was able to say, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound; everywhere and in all things I am instructed, both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." However, as he says, "I have *learned*," we may conclude he did not come to this advanced state of christian submission and contentment at once, but that he was taught it by many and repeated lessons, some, no doubt, of a very humbling character. It often requires, perhaps, a more strong faith, as well as more patience, to suffer, than to do, the will of our Heavenly Father, because, in that which is an active and obvious kind of duty, the natural dispositions and faculties have more room for exercise, and self-love is ever ready to obtrude; but to be willing to endure, in silence and with a meek and submissive temper, all the varied turnings of the divine hand upon us, whether directly or through the instrumentality of those who are concerned for our best welfare, requires much of the aid of the Spirit, which, as we seek day by day, for guidance, direction and government, helpeth our

infirmities. That it may be liberally bestowed on thee, my dear, and that I may be constantly seeking an increase in the same precious gift, is, I hope, my sincere desire for us both. . .

Thy affectionate and interested friend,

MARIA S. FOX.

To E. K.

Tottenham, *3rd of Ninth Month*, 1839.

MY BELOVED FRIEND,

I had been thinking much of thee before the arrival of thy kind and welcome letter, which I was glad to receive, for it seemed long since we had exchanged any communication of this sort; and now, on this day, deeply interesting to us on several accounts, it is a congenial occupation to take the pen and converse a little with one, who shared so affectionately and intimately in the feelings of distress and thankfulness which were our portion, four years ago. I do not forget that it is dear M.'s birthday, nor that it was the day on which our little party separated, under peculiar circumstances, at Ilfracombe, in 1834; but my thoughts naturally turn, with strong and lively emotions, to the solemn scene which sealed it indelibly on my heart, as the period of my precious sister's release from a worn and suffering tabernacle, and her entrance, as we cannot doubt, on that world of unclouded light and uninterrupted peace, where the redeemed of the Lord are for ever with Him in glory. May we be enabled, with true and reverent gratitude, to praise Him for what his own hand hath wrought on behalf of those who are gathered before us, and be animated to press forward ourselves, with increasing earnestness of soul, toward the mark for the prize of the high calling; and if, through unutterable mercy, we are permitted to know the same blessed experience in the end of the days, as to the immortal part, we shall not think the trials of the way have been too many.

Thy account of the removal of H. H. from this world, is touching, on account of those left behind; but what a favour it is, she was permitted to leave a full evidence, that her heart and her hopes were fixed on an enduring inheritance; and

that a precious confidence was granted her, in the care of the great and good Shepherd over the lambs she left behind. *That* is a victorious faith (so it seems to me) that enables a tender mother to commit her cherished and helpless children, with true resignation, into the Lord's hand; and yet it is that which the christian parent may well acknowledge to be his privilege and duty, whether continued with them or absent from them; for who can so abundantly supply their every need, or so tenderly watch over them, as He whose love is infinite as his power, and who knows, respecting every one, the end from the beginning. That we, my dear friend, may be enabled to cast all our cares, of whatever kind, on this all-sufficient Friend and Helper, is, I trust, the desire of my heart, and that we may be enabled, by the power of divine grace, to walk so humbly and watchfully before Him, as truly to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, in all things. . . . . .

Thy very affectionate,
M. S. Fox.

CHAPTER XIV.

1839, 1840. Religious engagements in London and Middlesex Quarterly Meeting—Decease of her aunt, E. Hoyland—Clerkenwell prison—Meetings in Tottenham and its neighbourhood—Interment of C. Wheeler—Religious engagements continued—Return of certificate.

Ninth Month 10*th*, *Third-day.* We have ventured to cast before our dear friends, a prospect of visiting the meetings within our own Quarterly Meeting, and also of appointing some, with those not of our Society. The Monthly Meeting has granted us a minute, expressive of cordial desire for our encouragement, but my mind is poor and stripped in the extreme, amounting almost to deadness. On First-day last, we were at Croydon, an exercising and laborious meeting; the afternoon and evening spent at the school. We do not see our way far before us, in this engagement. May we be enabled to go on, step by step, in simple faith; but after some degree of willingness has been wrought, and a beginning made to walk in the way of apprehended duty,—the heart even constrained to acknowledge, that it is of the Lord's mercy He condescends to renew the call, how do the infirmities of the creature, again and again rise up, and with what haltings and reluctance do we set about that which is called for. My whole frame, bodily and mental, shrinks from these public meetings, but if faith had been stronger, we might perhaps have proposed one at Croydon. Oh! that a true submission may be wrought in me.

15*th*, *First-day.* Went to the meeting at Wandsworth, where some renewed help was afforded for united labour. Ventured to propose the invitation being more extended in the evening. The company was not large, but nearly filled the house. It was a remarkably quiet meeting throughout, though the time of silence was pretty long. I am ready to think, some expression was withheld, that might have helped us, but we ought thankfully to acknowledge a comforting sense of the presence of Him, who is the everlasting Head and High Priest of his church. The belief that He did graciously prepare the hearts of more than a few, to perform spiritual worship, was humbling and refreshing to our

minds. We were very kindly entertained at the house of our friend J. B., and felt much sympathy for him, under various trials.

17*th*, *Third-day*. Monthly Meeting, at Plaistow. Our dear friend E. J. F., gave a lively and encouraging account of her late journey in France, Switzerland, &c. A public meeting appointed for the evening, in an assembly room at Stratford, weighed heavily on me. The evening was very wet, but the attendance was rather large. The gospel message flowed freely to the people, and I trust, some hearts were prepared to receive it.

19*th*, *Fifth-day*. After a considerable time of silent exercise, in the meeting at Kingston, we were led to encourage friends to the exercise of faith ; reviving the instance of the widow of Sarepta, who was fed by the handful of meal. A feeling was prevalent, that some present are under the preparing hand, if they are but subject to it, and given up to the best guidance. In the evening, a meeting at Esher. It was small, but a solid, quiet company, chiefly, I should suppose, seriously-minded people. They were encouraged to a simple dependence on the Lord Jesus Christ.

24*th*, *Third-day*. Quarterly Meeting. Felt scarcely able to go to it, from bodily indisposition ; nevertheless, I went, and for want of faith, lost the only opportunity of expressing a little matter that seemed to press on my mind : I attempted to say a few words in the women's meeting, but *that* would not do. Times and seasons are not ours, and the strength that is mercifully given, when we move in faith under the direction of the great Head of the church, however weak we may feel or however small the opening, is not at our command.

29*th*, *First-day*. At meeting at Staines ; with Friends in the morning, and in the evening, with as many of their neighbours in addition, as the house would accommodate. Both these meetings were, I trust, seasons of some solemnity. In the evening, there seemed to be serious and feeling minds present.

Tenth Month 1*st*, *Third-day*. At a meeting at West Ham, held in an upper room that has been a granary, but now fitted up by some serious people in the village, as a place of worship. It accommodated a pretty large number and was full. Some of the

company appeared to be of a very low class, every way, and we found it laborious work to enter into their condition, and to proclaim the warning message amongst them. I do think there were some of a different description, who, though poor in this world, might be regarded as rich in faith, and the attention of these was directed to the great Shepherd and Bishop of souls. Returned to Upton, to lodge; but did not feel as if we were wholly clear of the people of West Ham. Oh! that we may be subject under the Lord's hand; but these public services are awful,—body and mind plead at times against them; yet, what cause have we gratefully to commemorate the Lord's mercies, who supplies strength proportioned to our need, and causes even the outward tabernacle to be renewed day by day, so that, in our small measure of experience, we can testify to the truth of that declaration, "My grace is sufficient for thee."

3rd, Fifth-day. On returning from meeting, found a letter, with a poor account of my dear aunt E. Hoyland.

4th, Sixth-day. Went to Northampton; found my aunt very feeble, but quite capable of knowing me, and apparently much satisfied that I was with her.

13th, First-day. My dear aunt continued to decline very gradually; was not able to converse much, but occasionally dropt little remarks, that showed where her thoughts were centred. About four o'clock, on the afternoon of the 7th, her spirit was gently set free from the suffering tabernacle. Only M. C. and M., beside myself were present, and so sweet was the feeling that prevailed at that solemn moment, we were loth to break the stillness by calling any one. I believe our hearts were secretly bowed in gratitude before the Lord, who had so mercifully sustained his aged servant through the last conflict, had granted her a gentle and easy dismissal at the close of it, and ministered, we cannot doubt, through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, an entrance abundantly into his everlasting kingdom. The departure of this, my last near relative of that generation, is touching to my tenderest feelings, and opens a train of reflections that cannot be set down with pen and ink. My dear aunt was enabled to give proof of early dedication, through her submission to the restraining power of the Spirit of truth, and in many

close trials of faith and patience, has remarkably held fast her integrity; maintaining, in the different circumstances in which she has been placed, some of them more than ordinarily painful, the character of a humble, consistent follower of Christ; and her sun has set with sweet serenity, leaving behind a bright example to others. Her tender concern and sympathy for the afflicted, were much evinced by her care for the poor around her, and, though her means were not great, her desire to help them, to the utmost of her ability, was very apparent. She was a woman of active habits, and, notwithstanding her age, being I think, upwards of eighty, she continued the regular visitor of a bible district, till within a few months of her decease.

It was a great comfort to me, that D. C. arrived on Second-day,—just what the dear departed would have chosen, if she could have directed for herself. I have often had occasion to remark, how even minor circumstances seem to be ordered, at such a time, for those who have sought to put their whole trust in the Lord. The interment took place to-day, when a large and solemn meeting was held.

14*th*, *Second-day.* Spent an interesting but affecting morning, at my late dear aunt's dwelling. We could not but mournfully feel, that the house, which had been her residence for nineteen years, and where she was wont to entertain her friends with cheerful hospitality, must ere long be given up; but had the comforting belief, that though her place on earth shall know her no more, she has been received into "a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

18*th*, *Sixth-day.* It is thirty years this day, since my precious mother was taken from this world. The circumstances of her death are very fresh in my remembrance. How many solemn considerations, does the return of this season bring with it! Where should I now have been, but for the preserving and restraining hand, which secretly held me in seasons of peculiar peril! Deprived of the watchful care of a judicious mother, at the age of sixteen, and, a few years afterwards, of my honoured father,—with a disposition that laid me open to many dangers, I shudder, even now, to think where I might have been led; but the Lord, in his tender compassion, forsook me not, followed me

with his reproofs, and exercised his fatherly chastisements. Some of these were bitter to the natural taste, yet can I now feelingly adopt the language of the psalmist, and say, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted," for "before I was afflicted, I went astray." Oh! that through a more watchful obedience to the leadings of the great and good Shepherd, there may be an increased ability, to make the addition the psalmist made,—"But now have I kept thy word." The visit to Northampton has suspended, for a short time, the religious service on which we had entered, in this neighbourhood; and since our return, I have felt much inclined to cling to the privacy of our own dwelling; but the consideration of what may be our present duty, inclines us to look towards the meetings of Hammersmith and Brentford, next First-day. I feel exceedingly loth to leave our dear boys again, but have thought of the trials to which our early Friends were exposed, who, when they left their homes to attend a meeting, had the constant apprehension of being sent from it to a dungeon, where they might lie months, or even years; and in some instances perhaps, leave their children without the needful provision for their support. Strong faith, indeed! how it reproves our reluctant and feeble service.

20*th*, *First-day*. Went, in the morning, to Hammersmith. In looking a little towards this place, before we went to Northampton, the inhabitants more generally seemed to take hold of my mind; but since returning home, I have let in the idea, that neither body nor mind were equal to such an engagement, and therefore, perhaps too easily, fell in with the idea of taking Brentford meeting in the evening. I do not know that we had any cause to regret being with the few friends of Hammersmith alone, but my mind seemed to turn to the people more at large; and in the evening, at Brentford, we were both a good deal tried and discouraged.

22*nd*, *Third-day*. It is our lot, in this engagement, to see but a very little way before us; but whilst from home on First-day, some prospect of work in other places was opened a little to our view. We have ventured to propose to our friends, a meeting at Tottenham, more especially with the servants and smaller tradespeople, some evening this week; but, though feeling as if

we dare not withhold in this particular, we are both brought very low, with heart-searching views of the nature of the work in which we are engaged. On first waking this morning, my soul was filled with fear, lest all the preaching to others should prove my own condemnation. Oh! that through the sanctifying operations of the Holy Spirit, the floor of the heart may be thoroughly purged, and that, by the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ, there may be an offering unto the Lord,—an offering in righteousness.

24*th*, *Fifth-day.* The meeting was held, to-day, as proposed. The evening was unfavourable, as to weather; but a considerable number of persons attended, chiefly, it was thought, of the class in view. A quiet, settled feeling was permitted to overspread the company, from the first; and some renewed ability was afforded, to set forth the practical nature of true christianity. But although we had, I trust, cause for thankfulness in the solemnity that prevailed, and our friends seemed satisfied with the meeting, I came from it exceedingly depressed and discouraged, fearful of going out of the clear path of duty, and without faith or strength to look towards any further engagement that had been in prospect. My dear S. F. nearly shared in the conflict that was permitted, and I believe our desires were strong, that we might be shown the path of duty, and where we had missed it, if such were the case, either in doing or leaving undone. After some time of distress and anxiety, our minds were brought to the conclusion, that we must be willing to return to Hammersmith, and have a meeting with the inhabitants of that place.

26*th*, *Seventh-day.* Some renewed ability this morning, to lift up our eyes to Him from whom cometh our help, and to commit our way unto the Lord, who hath been very merciful towards us;—a peaceful feeling, for which, I trust, my heart is thankful. Our dear children's company is a great solace, and often helps me in low seasons.

27*th*, *First-day.* In the afternoon, we went to Hammersmith. The meeting-house is small, but was pretty well filled; and we were favoured with a precious solemnity, which is great cause of thankfulness. It was a time to be gratefully remembered, and proved a renewal and confirmation of our faith. May we humbly acknowledge it, and keep very low before the Lord.

After this fresh proof of the Lord's condescending goodness, it seemed as if we dare do no other than go forward, and look to the appointment of a meeting at Windsor, for Fifth-day evening, if the way open for it.

30*th, Fourth-day.* Awoke with feelings of depression, but with some strong desires after right direction and guidance in our outward concerns; that we may order all, even the minor matters which come more immediately within my province, with christian prudence and discretion, so that we may not be shut up from the wants of others, but rather see where we may circumscribe our own; especially, that our dear children may not be trained in unnecessary indulgence. I am ready to think, it would be more painful to be obliged to withhold, in reference to the help of others, than to give up some accommodations ourselves; but more self-love may be lurking in my heart than I have yet detected, and if really called to surrender conveniences or comforts to which I have been accustomed, there might be a greater unwillingness than I now suppose. Oh! that selfishness may be thoroughly rooted out, and that through the effectual working of the Holy Spirit, we may know some measure of the mind which was in Christ.

Eleventh Month 12*th, Third-day.* Since the last date, we have had renewed proofs of the tender mercy of the Lord, though not without some close provings of faith. The time has been pretty closely occupied in various duties, and there has not been much opportunity for writing. The meeting at Windsor, was held on the 1st of this month, in the town-hall. The evening was wet, and the company small, but I think it was a season of some solemnity. The rooms adjoining the hall were to be occupied, at a given hour, by a musical club, of which the singers from the royal chapel formed a part; but finding, at their time of collecting, our meeting was not over, they waited till the conclusion, and a number of them came in. I hope we had no cause to regret the appointment of this meeting, but, on the contrary, to acknowledge the goodness and loving-kindness of the Lord, who is pleased to be, to his poor, unworthy servants, strength in weakness, and a present helper in every needful time.

On First-day (the 3rd) we were at meeting at Uxbridge. There

was, I think, a solemn covering over the meeting, soon after we sat down, which did not lessen, but seemed rather to increase. I trust it was a time of renewed visitation to some present, especially amongst the young. Oh! that it may not "be as the morning cloud, and as the early dew that passeth away!" We were most easy to propose to our friends, the holding of the afternoon meeting at a later hour, and invitation being given among their neighbours, with which they readily concurred. At six o'clock, we met again, and found the house nearly full. It was a very precious meeting; in which there seemed no obstruction to the free declaration of the gospel message, or to the setting forth, so far as we were enabled, the spiritual privileges of the true believers, under the new covenant dispensation. Our hearts were humbled, and made thankful for the confirming and refreshing sense of the presence of the great Head of the church amongst us, at this time.

On Second-day evening, a meeting was held in the Lancasterian school-room at West Drayton, for the labourers of that village, especially such as work in the brick-fields of the neighbourhood. My faith was tried, by having to go to the meeting without my dear husband. He had gone to London in the morning, intending to return, but at the appointed hour was not arrived; this occasioned some solicitude, as to the cause; besides, I had depended on his feeling a more than common degree of interest in the present company, some few of whom are steady members of a Total Abstinence Society, formed here. The attendance was large, and I sat down in great emptiness and poverty of mind. We had not sat long, before my husband came in, and took his seat by me. Soon afterwards, he spoke on the importance of our endeavouring to settle into that stillness, which was suited to the solemnity of the object for which we were met. The effect was striking, and this communication seemed to open the way for further labour. It was a solemn, tendering meeting; I think it may be said, "To the poor the gospel is preached." Many labouring men were there, whose countenances, weather-beaten with exposure in their out-door occupations, bespoke serious attention and feeling. Our hearts were contrited before the Lord, and the tribute of thanksgiving for his renewed mercies, was offered unto Him, to whom belongeth all glory.

On Third-day morning, we took leave of our kind friends (whose sympathy and help had been greatly to our comfort) under a uniting feeling, and came up to London, in time to attend the Monthly Meeting at Devonshire House.

On Fifth-day last was our Monthly Meeting. I went under very serious feelings; found it a comfort to meet with our dear friends, for the solemn duty of divine worship. We were favoured, I think, with some sustaining sense of the Lord's goodness. I was ready to apprehend, after this, it might be best to suspend, for a while, our religious engagements, but as the First-day approached, we felt best satisfied to resume the work, and attended Stoke Newington meeting in the morning. In the evening, a large public meeting. I went to it very poor, and felt ready to burst into tears, when I saw the people pouring in, but after a pretty long season of secret exercise and proving of faith, my dear husband petitioned for the arising of that help which only is sufficient, and when he took his seat, a little strength seemed to be given, to advert to the feeding of the multitude, on whom the Lord Jesus had compassion when they were in the wilderness. Matter gradually opened, and fresh proof was mercifully afforded, that the poor servants are not sent on a warfare at their own charges, but that the great Head of the church still condescends to minister to his unworthy creatures, as it seemeth Him good, often through very feeble instruments. But though help was thus extended, in a way that ought deeply to humble us, I was much exhausted in body, and had a great plunge afterwards. The burden towards the inhabitants of Newington, did not seem to be taken away, and during some sleepless hours in the night, I was led to believe, we must seek for another opportunity with some of the poorest of the people, in a different part of the neighbourhood. I felt much below par, but went to the "Morning Meeting." We had some conversation, after it, with our kind friend J. F., as to the safety of proceeding farther; I told him the discouragement I then felt, and mentioned what had been the feeling, with respect to Newington. He encouraged us to go forward in simple faith, and suggested a place between Newington and Kingsland, as suitable to hold a meeting in,—a Lancasterian school-room, by the road-side.

We had noticed it, in passing that morning, and remarked to each other, that it was about the spot that appeared likely to include the poor population we had in view.

14*th*, *Fifth-day*. A low day, in which faith was proved in secret. Our dear friends truly kind, in their desire and endeavour to help us in the work that may be allotted.

15*th*, *Sixth-day*. The prospect of again leaving the dear children, and entering on a sort of service formidable to nature, presses heavily; and I fear the reluctance is rather increased than diminished, by the few days' rest we have had. When, alas! shall I learn to practice that true submission and walking in the obedience of faith, so often recommended to others. My soul is at times brought very low, under an awful sense of my want of conformity to that standard, which it seems laid upon me to hold up, as the christian's aim. Oh! that I may seek more earnestly to press towards the mark, to continue the warfare, to run so as to obtain. "I shall be satisfied, when I awake with thy likeness," is, I think, the language of David; and the apostle says, speaking of the Lord, "We know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." Blessed and glorious transformation! May we be continually pressing after a growing likeness to the second Adam,—the Lord from heaven,—a quickening spirit; that as we have borne the image of the earthy, we may, in the Lord's own time, bear the image of the heavenly, and, through his abounding grace, experience the fulfilment of those words of the apostle, "Death is swallowed up in victory." But whilst writing thus, I would by no means wish to encourage any morbid distaste of the present sphere of duty, whether that duty may be in doing or in suffering. Our mortal life is a precious gift of our Heavenly Father's bounty, replete with comforts and enjoyments, for the truly humbled and submissive soul; and if we are taught to regard it, not as the scene of our rest, but as the period allotted for our preparation for the life to come, under the gracious discipline, which is seen by Infinite Wisdom, to be needful for us, we shall see no cause to desire the abridgement of it. On the contrary, such should feel, with peculiar force, its tender ties and sacred obligations, and desire that they may be enabled, as long as it seemeth Him good, to cultivate the one and

fulfil the other. The more this desire prevails in the heart and operates on our daily conduct, the more, I believe, we shall find, that as much real happiness is provided for us below, as is consistent with a state of probation, and that the trials of life, dispensed in one way or other to all, will be sanctified to the soul's lasting benefit, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

17*th*, *First-day*. At Peckham meeting, which was large, and a very mixed assembly; many present who bore no trace of belonging to our Society in their appearance. We sat in a low spot. Went to Deptford, in the afternoon; where a meeting for the inhabitants was appointed for the evening. It was very full, and I trust it was a season of some renewed favour, though I did not think it quite so settled a meeting as some of the former ones.

19*th*, *Third-day*. Sought after ability, to cast all care upon the Lord, and to look up to Him for direction and guidance as to the next step, or whether we might not consider the present engagement pretty near its close. The concern for the poor people of Newington and Kingsland, not wholly taken away, and our friends seem desirous of knowing, whether any evening this week can be looked at. Endeavoured, unitedly, to consider the subject, but could not satisfactorily come to a decision in our minds, as to the time; so the matter lies over for the present.

24*th*, *First-day*. Went to Epping. Invitation was given amongst the inhabitants, to a meeting in the evening. The attendance was large. After some time of silent exercise, the Lord was pleased to help us, and we had once more to acknowledge that He is good, and that his name is to be praised.

27*th*, *Fourth-day*. The meeting at Kingsland is appointed for to-morrow evening. Faith put to a close trial; the enemy bearing hard upon us, to wrest the shield from our feeble grasp.

28*th*, *Fifth-day*. Both poorly. We did not feel able to get to our week-day meeting, this morning, but had a season of retirement together at home, in which we were a little comforted in our low estate, and some fresh ability was felt to look towards the Lord's holy temple. I think it was shown us, that however Satan may assault us, we must cling to our great and good Master, and to the work which He is pleased, from time to time, to give us to

do. Went in the evening, to the meeting at Kingsland. A large company of poor people, seemingly just the description we desired to see,—very quiet and attentive;—a precious and memorable season. "To the poor the gospel is preached."

Twelfth Month 1*st*, *First-day*. Spent at Tottenham; a day of close exercise to me, silently so, in the morning meeting. In the evening, a large public meeting; a time of painful proving to my mind, and not attended at last, with the relief we had hoped for. The service was laborious, whether from opposition in the minds of the people, or from other causes, I know not. The two meetings here, have been of a less relieving character than many of the others. Oh! for patience and resignation to suffer the whole will of the Lord, and to do what He may call for, however humbling to nature.

8*th*, *First-day*. At Winchmore Hill, with Friends in the morning; in the evening, a meeting with the inhabitants. At our Monthly Meeting, last week, we felt best satisfied, simply to inform our friends, how our minds were affected in reference to the engagements for which we had held their minute three months;—that we had very much hoped it might be right now to return it, and had endeavoured to look towards the meeting at Tottenham, last First-day, as a sort of concluding one, (at least for the present) though we have not yet attended any of the First-day meetings, in London; but as the time approached, we had, after some close consideration, been brought to the conclusion, that if there were no objection in the minds of our friends, we must be willing to retain the liberty they had given us, a little longer, though the way might not open to undertake much, just at present. They entered very feelingly into the subject, and encouraged us to proceed, as ability and opportunity might be afforded.

To S. F.—(at Wellington.)

Tottenham, *Twelfth Month* 31*st*, 1839.

My dearest S.

I feel so much better, this morning, that I take my pen with pleasure, to commune with thee, of that which is passing and has been passing in my thoughts. I am sensible of some-

thing like a solemnity of spirit, in the consideration, that this is the last day of the year; that it marks the exit of a period, which has been rich in mercies, though attended also with its own deep trials; but there is to my heart, unspeakable consolation in the belief, that unprofitable as I may be myself, thou art exercised in spirit before the Lord, to know his holy will; and that it is the prayer of thy heart, that we may be permitted to experience a growing conformity to it,—that however mysterious or impenetrable may be the workings of our Heavenly Father's providence towards us, we may bow in reverent, nay, thankful submission, and only seek to trust Him more fully and serve Him more faithfully, through and under all;—that whether the north wind or the south wind blow, the spices of his garden may flow out, and fruits increase and abound, to the praise of his great and excellent name. I think I may say to thee, that my heart has been humbled in the desire, and that my feeble prayers have been put up,—are put up, that such may be our experience, and that in the time of discouragement, we may be enabled to commit our all into the Lord's hand, and to believe in his continued faithfulness, mercy and truth; yea, that we may make a free-will offering to Him of that which his bounty yet leaves us, considering that nothing is our own, but that all we have, is his, and lent us for a purpose of his glory. He has blessed us, and I do believe He will still bless us, though in love He may chasten and prune us; but surely it is that we may bring forth more fruit. . . . . When thou receivest this, the year will have passed away! May the new one open on thee, if not with outward prosperity, with spiritual blessings; and may our spirits be united at the footstool of heavenly love and mercy!

Thine, in the tenderest affection,

M. S. F.

1840. *First Month 2nd, Fifth-day.* A great variety of feelings, and something like the vicissitudes of season, have been mine, since the last date. Many things have operated, in various ways, to produce solicitude, but, in the solemn close of another year, and the opening of a new one, there seems something of a calming influence, which is an unspeakable favour, and enables

me, amidst much poverty of spirit, (oh! that it were of the right kind) to acknowledge past mercies, and to indulge the hope for more.

Our beloved M. is at Ipswich; the two at home are nice companions to me. May the Lord keep all these sweet and pleasant plants, and prune and water them by his good Spirit! Attention to them in their vacation time, bodily indisposition, and my dear husband's necessary absence, point out the propriety of our religious engagements being suspended for a while. There have been two meetings since the one last-mentioned, viz: a second at Winchmore Hill, a week after the former, and one, in a small Wesleyan meeting-house at Clapton. Since then, our Quarterly Meeting has been held. I have also been with our dear friends, E. J. F. and S. C., to visit the Clerkenwell prison,—a mournful, but deeply interesting and affecting labour; yet, I cannot but believe, a work that will be blessed to those who have ability to engage in it, (it does not seem in my power to do so,) and surely, in accordance with the precepts and example of our dear Redeemer, who came "to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." Some of the poor inmates of this receptacle for the untried, showed much sensibility, both during the reading of the Scriptures, and afterwards, when they were invited to turn from their evil doings, and, through repentance and faith in Christ, to experience the sweetness and the freeness of his pardoning love and mercy. But oh! the thraldom into which the enemy of souls brings those, who, it is to be feared, have become his willing captives, and the difficulty there is, in attempting to retrace their steps. Yet the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, is above the power of Satan, and He can take the prey from the mighty. Even so may it be, through the richness of his grace!

To M. J.

Tottenham, *First Month*, 1840.

My dear Friend,

I should probably have answered thy kind and acceptable letter a little sooner, but that I thought it best to wait the arrival of the manuscript. It is to us, a deeply interesting, as well as

instructive record, of the experience and feelings of one so deservedly dear.* Her memory is precious to many, and to myself, thou wilt easily believe, entwined with so much that remembrance loves to cherish, that I cannot read the manuscript without a great variety of emotions. It carries me back to the days, when many beloved ones were filling, with christian stability, their places in the church militant, who are now, we humbly believe, members of the church triumphant. What a glorious exchange for them! and how far from a mournful consideration for us, if we could but more clearly perceive, with the eye of faith, the great and marvellous works of that Almighty Saviour, "of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named;" from generation to generation, "the Head over all things to the church," and able to perfect that which concerneth even the feeblest of those who truly call upon his name. May we, my dear friend, through his infinite mercy, be enabled so to do, under all the varied probations of our earthly pilgrimage, and be finally prepared, through the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, for an entrance into the undefiled kingdom. . . . . .

Thy truly attached friend,
M. S. Fox.

First Month 17*th, Sixth-day.* My dear husband returned on the 8th. A period of rest seemed allowable after his rejoining his family, but we are now looking towards the accomplishment of what remains of the service. It seemed best, last First-day, to inform our friends, that the concern towards the poorest class of the inhabitants of this village still remained, and that we were willing, if they approved and suitable places could be found, to attempt some meetings for this description, in the quarters where they reside; apprehending there are amongst them, many who might be willing to attend a meeting, brought as it were to their doors, who would not take the trouble to go far, or be disposed to show themselves in a place of worship. Our friends entered feelingly into the prospect, and undertook to make inquiry after suitable places. A meeting is appointed for this evening, in a school-room at West Green. My mind barren and

* Margaret Hoyland.

unprofitable enough, but if it be the Lord's work, He will do all that is needful, as it seemeth Him good.

19*th*, *First-day.* The meeting at West Green, was held as proposed, and the attendance quite as large as was expected. The people were quiet and attentive, and there was some sense of solemnity. Encouragement was held out to those who might be seeking the way to Zion, with their faces thitherward, and the word of warning, to the careless and disobedient. It seemed to me, however, there was not so full a sense of the power of the gospel, as on some other occasions. I thought it a great favour, to feel a peaceful quiet afterwards, though accompanied with the apprehension that the case was not fully reached. We were told after the meeting, that many of the company were such as did not usually attend any place of worship, though a few were of a more serious description. This afternoon, we have been at a meeting, on G. W.'s premises; a large commodious room, kindly lent by him, being fitted up very nicely for the purpose. Our dear friends at Tottenham, are greatly disposed to do what they can for the furtherance of this service, and very cheerfully lend their valuable aid: their company is a comfort and strength. A large number of poor people were met together on this occasion, and were very quiet and attentive. Some renewed ability was afforded to proclaim the gospel tidings, and to invite poor sinners to look in faith, upon "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world;" as well as to point out the danger of false dependence, and the inutility of a profession without the real heart work,—the thorough and saving change, which must be wrought in the soul by the power of the Holy Spirit. I think it was a solemn and searching season. Those who are acquainted with the people, tell us, there were many of the most careless and dissolute, several who have been under imprisonment for offences against the law. Oh! how the compassionate Saviour of men pleads with the rebellious, and seeks, by the visitations of his mercy, the wandering ones!

22*nd*, *Fourth-day.* Another meeting at the Girls' Lancasterian school-room. A large attendance of the same class, as at the former meetings. We had rather a long time of silence, and I thought, as on the foregoing occasions, an exercise that re-

minded me of the words of the apostle, "baptized for the dead;" but it pleased the Lord, at length, to make known something of his love and mercy to poor sinners, and to cause the warning call, once more to be sounded in the ears of the careless and disobedient.

25*th*, *Seventh-day*. A meeting is appointed for to-morrow evening, at our own meeting-house, for the district surrounding it. It looks awful in prospect, and many reasonings at times present themselves, but I desire to cast all care upon Him, who hath hitherto been graciously pleased to help us in our times of need. I trust we may take encouragement from the past, so far as to believe that the course pursued, in thus dividing the village into districts and endeavouring to meet the poor people in their own immediate neighbourhood, has not been a wrong one, and that the service has been measurably owned by the great and compassionate Shepherd, who laid down his life for the sheep.

28*th*, *Third-day*. Our meeting, last First-day morning, was, I thought, a time of some sweet refreshment in silence, though my mind was brought low, in the prospect of what awaited us in the evening. Our friends, who have been most indefatigable in their endeavours to aid in the carrying out of this concern towards the poor and miserable, had given a very thorough personal notice, through the district intended. The day was most stormy and unfavourable, but it cleared up before the time for meeting, in the evening. The attendance was much larger than we expected. The sight of such a number of poor men and women, coming in to sit down with us in our own meeting-house, many of them, probably, such as go very little to places of worship, was interesting and affecting, in no small degree. A sweet and solemn stillness covered us from the first, and great decorum prevailed. The parable of the great man, who made a feast and invited his guests, sending forth his servants with the message, "All things are ready," was brought with some freshness and in a lively manner, to my remembrance, and after a short time of silence, I ventured to stand up and speak a little of the freeness of the gospel invitation, and of the willingness of men to make excuses. Matter continued to open, and I trust it may be said, there was the renewed extending of the crook of the

Heavenly Shepherd, who follows the wanderers, and would gather them all into the fold of his love. Oh! that through his tender mercy, they may not only hear, but obey the call. The company were deeply attentive and serious in their deportment, and the meeting ended with supplication to the Lord, on behalf of different conditions that might be present. Some of our hearts were, I believe, humbled in gratitude for these renewed proofs of divine condescension. Oh! how great is the strength and comfort, of being surrounded, on these occasions, by dear friends, whom we not only cordially esteem and love, but whose spirits are brought into a deep and true exercise before the Lord, that his name alone may be exalted, and that He would be pleased to bless us together. Another meeting is appointed for this evening, in the Lancasterian school-room.

31*st*, *Sixth-day*. The meeting was held on Third-day evening, as proposed, and the attendance large. I went to it, deeply feeling the weightiness of the engagement, but with great emptiness and unprofitableness, as to my own state. There seemed less of quiet settlement, than on some such occasions, indeed the stillness that has generally prevailed, even in the time of silence, has been remarkable. My mind was anxious, and it was long before I could attain that quiet which is so essential to the right performance of religious worship, and without which, we cannot expect to hear the voice of the good Shepherd, to our help and comfort. At length, a degree of calming influence was mercifully granted, and a few words were offered in prayer; after which, the animating expressions of David, at the beginning of the twenty-third psalm, were brought, with some sweetness, to my mind, and I ventured to stand up with the words, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want:" matter opened, and different conditions were addressed. The Lord's depending children were encouraged to put their trust in Him, under all difficulties and discouragements, seeing that He careth for them as a most compassionate Shepherd; and the warning call, once more, went forth, to the rebellious and unawakened sinner. I trust, it was a time of some renewed favour. The enemy tempted me afterwards, and sought to disturb me with the suggestion, that what I had communicated, was chiefly addressed

to a condition, of which there were probably not many present. I was a good deal spent, and did not sleep well; but in the morning, the Lord was pleased sweetly to quiet my spirit, and to show me, I must leave all to Him, who works as it pleaseth Him, and when it pleaseth Him. The people were strangers to me; I had no outward knowledge of them, and doubtless, there were some of various descriptions present,—some of the Lord's poor, I fully believe, thought here might be many of a different character.

At our week-day meeting, yesterday, I thought we were favoured with a sweet, solemn and uniting season, something of the fellowship of the Spirit, in our silent sitting together. Before the close, we had some ministry of an instructive and weighty character, as it seemed to me.

Second Month 9th, First-day. Since the foregoing date, we have had three more meetings. One, on the evening of the 31st, in White Hart Lane, which was fully attended by the poor people of the neighbourhood; many very poor among them, and several of these Roman Catholics. It was a time, to be remembered with humble gratitude. The goodness of the Lord was felt to overshadow us, solemnizing our spirits, and the word of warning, of encouragement and invitation, flowed freely. Oh! that our souls may be deeply humbled, and the Lord have all the glory.

On the 7th, a meeting was held at Edmonton; the notice being circulated amongst the lowest class of inhabitants. A great number attended,—the roughest looking company we have yet had. It looked awful, at first, to see them crowding in; but though it was a laborious meeting, not attended with that refreshing sense of our Heavenly Father's love, which, we have, at times, been mercifully permitted to experience, it was a season in which the warning call went forth through various instruments, and I trust the same power which only can qualify any for the preaching of his gospel, prepared the ear to hear and the heart to feel in some present; more than a few were very quiet, serious and attentive.

This afternoon, we have been at a very large meeting, in a barn in the Hale. The continuance of this kind of labour from time to time, makes me solicitous that we may be preserved very watchful,—that every movement may be in the newness of life.

After speaking some time, the current of communication seemed to close rather abruptly, but I think there was a solemn covering. What yet remains, or whether much more may be done at all, in this line of service, is not yet clearly seen. Oh! for patience and true resignation to submit to every baptism, and to do or suffer the whole will of God.

Yesterday was our M.'s birth-day. May the Lord bless and keep this dear child, and make him one of the lambs of his fold, whom He feeds and cares for, and leads in the green pastures of life, for his mercies' sake! Oh! that he and his two dear brothers may be blessed and sanctified by Him, who condescended to the little ones, when He was on earth.

26*th, Fourth-day.* Another vacancy in my journal, during which, many things have transpired. Intelligence of the death of dear Charles Wheeler in France, and a touching request from S., that we would if possible meet them at Southampton where it was their intention to inter the remains, induced us to go thither, on the 18th inst. We found our dear friends at the Dolphin inn, where they had arrived that morning from Havre, after a tossing passage,—D. W., his son and daughter. The interment took place on the 19th, before meeting. A very precious and solemn covering was permitted at the grave, in the meeting, and during the remainder of the day, in which there was a sustaining sense of the tender mercy of the Lord, who had so remarkably carried on and completed his own work in the soul of the dear departed, strengthened his affectionate attendants for their cup of trial and for the laborious duties of prolonged watching, and who now continued to be near, as their unfailing helper. It was a tendering season, and we felt it a privilege to share with them, though it was some effort to go.

Last First-day evening, another meeting was held with the poor people, in our meeting-house here, to which they had been invited, from the several districts we had previously visited. It was a searching season, wherein, the danger of rejecting Christ and the various ways in which men reject Him, were pressed home to the consideration of those present, as well as encouragement held out to such as were in any measure sensible of their condition, and brought to desire a participation in those blessings,

which are in his hand to bestow. I think it was a solemn meeting, and desire to be humbly grateful for the help afforded, though it was more laborious than some former ones have been. Hard hearts, I think there were, amongst the company, though many of the people were very quiet and attentive, and some, I doubt not, felt the truths that were declared. The small district of Wood Green, is looked to for a meeting, if a place can be procured. Whether much more may now be called for, seems not quite clear at present, but I trust, we may thankfully believe, this engagement draws near its close.

Yesterday, our dear friend D. W. and his three children, dined at our house,—greatly to be sympathized with, under their affecting circumstances. We had an interesting season together, before we parted, in which the sense of our Heavenly Father's love and of his tender care for his people, were sweetly felt.

Third Month 7th, Seventh-day. Last Fifth-day, was our Monthly Meeting. The approach of it brought us to the serious consideration, how far it might be right now to return our minute; but, after endeavouring to look at it pretty fully, and comparing our feelings together, it seems safest to retain it a little longer. We have felt some attraction to the meetings of Friends in London, and it is likely we shall endeavour to get to some of these, during the present month, the lengthening days enabling us to do it, without absenting ourselves long from our dear children, the right care of whom, is a duty that cannot be safely neglected. That day and the day previous, were a time of close exercise to me, from the pressure of a concern which, though not now presented to my mind for the first time, was brought home to it, in a way that made me anxious and thoughtful, in no small degree. It was, to pay a visit (if that were admissible) to the Meeting for Sufferings, to be held the next day. I had never heard of such a visit from one who was not a member of it, and wished to mention it to no one, till I felt quite satisfied, such a step was necessary to my own peace of mind, as I was ready to think it would pass away, and prove only the awakening of an interest, that might be profitably cherished in secret, but which needed not a public expression. Towards the close of the day, however, I felt, that shutting it up in my own

breast would not do, and on speaking to my kind and sympathizing husband, he encouraged me to believe it was practicable, and by no means contrary to right order; though there might not be any precedent for such a visit. It was indeed a very weighty thing to me, but the affectionate sympathy of our dear friends here, in the station of elder, was very comforting and strengthening. I think we may say, some precious solemnity and a sense of the uniting love of Christ, attended our minds, and that which I apprehended to be the exercise, was delivered under a humbling feeling of the Lord's continued goodness to his people. How great are his mercies to his unworthy servants, amidst all their doubts and fears! I returned home immediately, and I trust, gratitude to the Lord was the covering of my spirit; though the enemy has great store of weapons, and knows how to use them upon the frail and feeble instrument, both before and after every service; but it is an unspeakable favour, to know something of that precious quiet, in which his power is felt to be limited, and some ability is granted, to leave the past and the future in the hands of a compassionate Lord, who does not send us on a warfare at our own charges, but supplies every need from the inexhaustible treasury of his grace.

8*th*, *First-day*. Went to the Peel meeting, this morning. We sat, for a very considerable time, under such a feeling of emptiness as to that which is good, that it seemed not likely we should communicate to others; but at length, it appeared as if a few words were called for from me, encouraging those who might be sensible of their own weakness and poverty, to a patient waiting upon the Lord, and to a believing expectation of spiritual blessings at his hand. I thought a solemn feeling prevailed, and the meeting ended with prayer for all present. We returned home immediately, the meeting at Wood Green being fixed for the evening. Several kind friends of our own meeting, accompanied us to the latter, which was held in a commodious room, and was attended by a large number of the neighbouring poor. A very precious quiet prevailed, and I hope we may thankfully acknowledge, it was a good meeting.

12*th*, *Fifth-day*. At our own week-day meeting; a time of some sweet refreshment to me, in secret. It was chiefly held in silence, and I thought a solemn covering was over us.

13*th*, *Sixth-day.* At a committee of the "Morning Meeting," for the revision of manuscripts. I thought a very pleasant feeling was prevalent; and my own mind was, during a part of the time, drawn to consider the preciousness of that salvation, which is offered through Christ our Saviour.

15*th*, *First-day.* At Westminster meeting, where we sat long, in silent exercise, under a depressing sense of our unprofitableness;—I am afraid to say, baptized, in some measure, into the low state of things amongst us, for I often am ready to question, whether any real capacity to sympathize with the living members of the body in right exercise, is present with me on these occasions. However, we sat in a low place, and I almost thought we should leave the meeting pretty much as we came. At length, my husband rose, with the words of our Lord addressed to Jerusalem, "How often would I have gathered thy children together," &c. When he concluded, the christian life, set forth in scripture as a warfare, was presented to my mind, with some feeling of the importance of our so regarding it, and of the necessity to seek for all the weapons of this warfare from the Lord, who only can supply them; that through his power, there may be an overcoming, and some experience of that victory which is promised to the church, through faith. "This is the victory, that overcometh the world, even our faith." The danger of rejecting Christ, was also touched upon, and the meeting ended with prayer for different classes present, that the Lord's truly depending children might be strengthened for the race that is set before them, that the tempted souls might be succoured according to their need, and the unawakened and careless brought to see their danger, and the necessity, whilst life and opportunity are afforded, of seeking after a preparation for the life to come.

17*th*, *Third-day.* Went to a meeting, in the Assembly-room at Enfield. It was large, and a mixed company. I felt every way below par,—poorly in body, and feeble in mind. We sat some time in silence, and I thought the stillness was comforting; something like a token for good, amidst our poverty and dryness. Afterwards, the way for communication seemed to open, to different classes present. The necessity of preparation for the life to come, was dwelt upon,—the vanity, uncertainty and

shortness of the things of time, set forth. The privileges of the christian believer, who is truly brought to heartfelt repentance and saving faith, contrasted with the cold, cheerless and hopeless condition of those who reject the precious truths of christianity, and, in the hardness of unbelief, refuse a participation in the benefits so graciously and freely offered them, through the death of Christ. I believe we may thankfully acknowledge, it was a solemn, though an exercising, meeting. How condescending is the Lord to the weakness of his children, and how does He, from time to time, make it known to their souls, that in Him, they have an all-sufficient and ever-present helper!

19*th*, *Fifth-day*. In the evening, a meeting in an Independent chapel, between Stratford and West Ham. This meeting had long been on my mind, and felt very formidable in prospect. When we came there, and found it was needful to go up into the pulpit, there being no other suitable seat, my heart began to sink still more; however, there was no alternative. A sweet covering of stillness and solemnity seemed to overspread the meeting almost immediately, and after a short time, ability was granted to stand up, with a few words that presented: "Be still, and know that I am God." Matter continued to arise, and it proved a comforting and refreshing season, in which the word of consolation and encouragement flowed to the Lord's depending and afflicted children, of whom, I doubt not, there were more than a few present. In conclusion, prayer was offered for these, and for such as were not yet fully awakened to the necessity of seeking for a place of refuge. We returned home afterwards, I trust with some thankful sense of the Lord's continued mercies.

21*st*, *Seventh-day*. Now the week draws again to a close, and the next brings with it the Quarterly Meeting; very serious it looks in prospect, as these large gatherings always do, to my mind. May the Lord give us true simplicity and humble watchfulness!

22*nd*, *First-day*. At Southwark meeting; where our minds were brought into sympathy with our friends, and I think we were permitted to know something of a time of refreshing together, amidst the sense of our low condition, individually, and as a people. We had our three dear boys with us. We endeavour, as much as possible, to take them with us on these occasions,

and find it very satisfactory so to do. The consciousness that they are not left at home, to do as they can whilst we are absent, is helpful to our minds, and the pleasure of having their company great; whilst their hearts expand with love and enjoyment, in going anywhere with their parents.

23*rd, Second-day.* Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders; a quiet comfortable meeting, I think, though very little was expressed there, beyond what was needful for the carrying on of the business.

24*th, Third-day.* Quarterly Meeting. How formidable these large meetings are! There was a good deal of communication from brethren and sisters; and I trust it was a time of instruction and solemnity. My own mind quiet, though less capable than sometimes, of appreciating the good counsel communicated. Looked upon the dear young people in our second meeting, with yearning interest, but did not find any opening to express what was felt on their account.

25*th, Fourth-day.* Did not go to the meeting this evening, apprehending I might allowably rest, especially as we have found it best to venture on the appointment of another meeting at Enfield, for to-morrow evening. Oh, for faith and a true, patient exercise of soul! It is often, indeed generally, my lot, to go to these meetings, under such a sense of emptiness and unprofitableness as is not easy to be described; sometimes, to sit a considerable time in this state, the enemy pressing hard to discourage me from using the grain of faith; yet, the experience of the Lord's condescending goodness on past occasions, ought to make me trustful for the future. If the work be of Him, He will not fail us in the time of need.

26*th, Fifth-day.* Went to Enfield. Found a large company collected in the Assembly-room, when we arrived there, and the people continued to come in till it was very closely filled. I felt much divested even of that feeling which had led to the appointment of another meeting; but as we walked, through the people, to our seats, I thought there was a precious quiet granted, which seemed like a token for good. We had not sat very long, before a few sentences arose in the way of petition, which it appeared right to express vocally; and our friend J. H.

soon after rose. When he sat down, matter was presented to my mind, and ability graciously afforded to stand up with it. I trust we may thankfully acknowledge the help bestowed. My dear S. F. was engaged at the close in prayer, and surely we may say it was a good meeting. The people, many of whom I should suppose were little accustomed to such meetings, were very quiet and attentive, and that solemnity prevailed, which always calls for humble gratitude to our Heavenly Father. The gospel warning as well as invitation, was given with some degree of liberty. May the Lord, in his mercy, make it effectual, through the operation of his Spirit!

27*th*, *Sixth-day*. My mind, to-day, in a quiet, peaceful frame, though covered with an awful sense of the responsibility resting upon those who are made use of, to convey the word of exhortation to others, and to set forth the way of life and salvation. The time may come (oh, may I profitably bear this in mind!) when there must be a practical exhibition of that patience under severe trials, which is the duty of the christian, and when active service may give place to passive and secret suffering; when there must be a yet more full and personal proving of the efficacy of those supports and consolations, which have been held up as the privilege of the true believer in Christ. Oh! that the Holy Spirit may work so effectually in my soul, that there may be something of that experience spoken of by an apostle, when he said "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content," and that a true submission to the will of God may be wrought; so that whilst He is pleased, in any way, to call for public labour, there may be the ready obedience of faith; and when He may see meet to lay aside the unworthy instrument, to turn his hand upon it in another sort of discipline, there may be the full acknowledgment of his perfect right to do what He will, and by whom He will, and a capacity felt to rejoice in his continued goodness to his people. "One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts."

Fourth Month 15*th*, *Fourth-day*. My diary has been left vacant for some time, but there have been precious traces of the continued kindness of our Heavenly Father, during this interval; and I am inclined now to endeavour to make a brief record of some of them.

My mind was very peaceful after the last meeting at Enfield, and the permission to regard it as the close of these public services for the present, in the immediate neighbourhood of Tottenham, was thankfully appreciated. A desire was, at the same time, felt in each of our minds, that we might be found patient and faithful, and that we might not be suffered to return our certificate without something of an evidence, that we were released by our great and good Master. Under these feelings, there seemed a fresh pointing towards a public meeting at Croydon, and also to the little company of Friends at Westerham, that meeting being the only one in the Quarterly Meeting we had not already visited. We therefore went to Croydon on the 1st inst., and had a very full and comfortable meeting there. A precious sense of the Lord's solemnizing presence was granted, and though we were both poorly, and empty enough, yet, after a sweet time of stillness, way opened for communication, and matter was freely supplied. The spiritual privileges of the gospel dispensation were enlarged upon, the meeting ending with the offering of thanksgiving and praise to Him, from whom come all our blessings, and who still condescends to make Himself known to the depending soul, "in breaking of bread." The people were very quiet and attentive, and seemed like the prepared ground. May the Lord give the increase in his own way and time! Next morning, we went to Westerham; a beautiful day, and the country lovely, but we had both increasing colds, and close exercise of spirit in reference to the future, which kept us from the full enjoyment of it. Under all circumstances, however, it is sweet to see the traces of our Heavenly Father's hand, and to think of the good things He prepares for his poor, unworthy creatures, even here. What will it be, where the blighting effects of sin are unknown, and where all are harmonious and happy!

The very few Friends at Westerham meet in a room hired for the purpose, as they have no meeting-house. As some attraction was felt to the people more generally, we had requested them to invite some of their neighbours, as far as the small accommodation would permit. I do not think half a dozen came; and here I may remark, that this sort of half-way measure did not answer. We cannot do our great Master's work in an idle manner. The

meeting with the Friends, was probably less relieving than if we had met them in a more select way, and, after all, we found it would not do. The Independent meeting-house was obtained, and notice soon given, the town being small. When we met, I felt indescribably flat and low, and have seldom sat the silent part of a meeting, under more distressing feelings. The greatest wall of opposition that can well be imagined, seemed to present itself, and I almost thought we should leave without any communication. At length, however, a few sentences were feebly offered in prayer, and soon after, a text presented, with which there seemed a little strength to rise. Matter gradually opened, chiefly on the fall of man, and on the means appointed for his restoration,—the necessity of an entire change of heart, and the work of the Holy Spirit in effecting this; whilst the character and offices of the Lord Jesus Christ and the power of his gospel, were dwelt upon more fully than on some other occasions, indeed, in a manner somewhat surprising to myself, as I supposed the audience might be chiefly attenders of the chapel, to whom *these* truths were probably familiar. At the close, I was told that one or two individuals, who appeared to be attentive listeners, were decided Unitarians. I am inclined, however, to believe, some of the opposition, which was at first to be felt, proceeded from the prejudices of others who were there, and who possibly could not reconcile the ministry of women. It was a laborious meeting, very different in feeling from that of the preceding day, and did not leave that sweetness in the retrospect. Oh! the hardness and pride of the human heart, when it is not softened by the power of the Holy Spirit.

On First-day (the 5th) we had a meeting in the Friends' meeting-house, Ratcliff, at which, a large number of persons were present; and the invitation, "All things are ready," was once more proclaimed to a quiet and attentive company.

On Fourth-day, we were at a meeting at Devonshire House, for the young women of this Quarterly Meeting generally; a large and interesting company. My mind had long been brought under exercise on their account: many fears and misgivings attended, but in looking towards the giving up of our certificate, there did not seem a prospect of doing it peacefully, without this sur-

render. I had been suffering for several days from a severe cold, attended with fever and much pain in the head and face, so that when the time came, the poor body was little in a state for such an effort; however, as the meeting had been fixed, there was no alternative but to go, and leave the issue with Him who has helped us hitherto, according to our need. Faith was put to a close pinch, but after some time of silence, the offering of vocal prayer seemed to open the way for communication. I trust we may thankfully acknowledge, it was a good meeting. At the close, we were enabled gratefully to commemorate the tender mercy of the Lord, and to petition for his blessing upon those assembled.

The next day, the 9th inst., we returned our certificate, under a precious covering of solemnity, and with a grateful sense of the compassionate care and abundant goodness of the Shepherd of Israel, enabling us, with our beloved friends, who have so fully participated in the work and proved themselves helpers of our faith, to set up once more an Ebenezer, and say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

CHAPTER XV.

1840, 1841. Memoranda—Stay at Brighton — Religious engagements there—S. F.'s absence in France—Religious visits to young Friends.

Fourth Month 20th, Second-day. Very peaceful feelings have attended my mind since the return of our certificate, and ability has been granted, sweetly to enjoy the comforts of home, the society of my precious children, and the repose, of which the poor body stands greatly in need. The sense of exhaustion is considerable, but with it, there is some renewed ability, to commit all into the Lord's hand, and that language has, at times, been prevalent: "Return unto thy rest, O my soul! for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee." Precious, however, as is that quiet, which the Lord knows how to bestow upon his unworthy children, I have not been insensible of the necessity of maintaining the warfare, and that even in times of allowable rest, the christian soldier must not let fall his weapons: self-will needs to be mortified, and rises, in one shape or other, against the duties of the day. We have had many unexpected engagements, the last few days; and I have found it difficult to maintain all the cheerfulness and right spirit I could wish, feeling so much inclined to entire quiet, and desirous of a little thorough settlement, with my dear husband and children. But, to be found at our post, under the varying circumstances of life, is the thing. The man would make a poor soldier, who, when he had got through one duty, should stipulate for a certain quantity of rest, before he entered on the performance of another. This is not the place of our rest. Oh! that I may remember this, and by looking singly to the Captain of our salvation, be enabled to "fight the good fight of faith." We must not choose for ourselves; much less, seek to indulge our love of ease. I often wish for more of that spirit, which should enable me to fulfil the common-place and ordinary duties of life, as to the Lord, and not to men. I am too fond of, or I should rather say, too anxious for, domestic

settlement and repose, though not naturally unsocial. In the neighbourhood of this busy metropolis, there is much that comes unexpectedly, and it is a great matter to be prepared for whatever the day may bring forth. I am persuaded, the more we can cherish the feeling implied in those words of the apostle, "Ye are not your own," the more thoroughly we should enjoy the privileges that belong to the enlarged sphere of the christian, who may always find matter for instruction, and stimulus to gratitude, if his heart is really filled with the love of Christ. It is good to be permitted to minister, in outward things, to any of those for whom He has so displayed his wonderful love, that He died for them; much more, to give but a cup of cold water to a disciple, in the name of a disciple. The Lord Jesus came, not to be ministered unto, but to minister. Oh! for more of the mind that was in Him.

Last Seventh-day, my beloved J.'s birth-day. I helped him to stock his little garden with flowers, and this pleased him more than if we had sought a costly treat for him. The delights of children are simple, and their hearts expand to the proofs of love and kindness, however trifling they may be. All nature wears the joyful garb of spring, and the garden looks very inviting: had a walk in it, this morning, before breakfast, with my dear S. F.;—very sweet to me.

"HINDER ME NOT."

Traveller! whither away so fast?
The break of morn is scarcely past;
Thou hast hours enough before thee yet,
To reach thy goal ere yon sun be set;
Regions of beauty around thee lie,
Pass them not unheeded by.

Stranger! mark well that orb on high,
Far it hath climbed the clear blue sky,
Since first it rose on my eager sight,
Bathing yon hills in a flood of light:
Short is the distance I've come, and soon,
That sun will have gained the height of noon.

Traveller! cast one glance around,
Where'er thou shalt turn, 'tis fairy ground,
Rest thee awhile in these shadowing bowers,
'Mid the music of birds and the perfume of flowers;
Visions of gladness around thee shall play,
Thy journey is toilsome and thorny thy way.

Stranger! my journey is toilsome, 'tis true,
But its glorious end, I have ever in view;
No charms of this earth for one moment compare
With the mansions of mercy prepared for us there;
Then tell me no more of the shade of these bowers,
Of the richness of fruits, of the fragrance of flowers;—

I may not thus linger,—yon sun, how he gains!
His meridian heat he already attains;
He will quickly descend, and the cloud-curtained west,
Arrayed in new splendours, receive him to rest,
I must speed with the ardour of faith and of love,
My rest is on high,—my best home is above.

24*th*, *Sixth-day.* I have greatly desired of late, to know more of what is so concisely expressed in scripture, in those words, "Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you." After the innumerable proofs we have received of the tender care of our Heavenly Father, it is wonderful we cannot leave off so much unnecessary caring for ourselves, or rather, it would be wonderful, if we did not know the human heart is fruitful of unbelief and distrust, and of that profitless anxiety to which they give rise. When the body is rather below par as to strength, and the mind shares in the debility of its earthly companion, the future often presents itself with an aspect of discouragement; things are viewed disproportionately; mole hills rise into mountains, and greater trials which may never occur, are contemplated as probable. But what have I to do with the future?—poor worm of the dust! I have no future,—that is in the Lord's hand, to give or not, as it may please his perfect wisdom. If He see meet to continue the thread of life, He will grant but a day,—nay, only a moment at a time, and for the attendant trials and difficulties of each, will give proportionate strength, if He is humbly sought unto in faith. Oh! that I may seek after that truly humble, patient, and resigned spirit, which would leave all in the hands of infinite love.

Fifth Month 6th, Fourth-day. Busy, lately, with various things, preparatory to receiving our friends at the Yearly Meeting. This large assembly looks, as usual, very formidable to me in prospect. Oh! for a spirit of true humility, gospel simplicity, and christian love! "Perfect love casteth out fear," says the apostle John, and "he that feareth is not made perfect in love." I think I am often convinced, in an especial manner on these occasions, that I am indeed very far from this perfect love; all sorts of fears are ready to suggest themselves, in opposition to that holy fear which is not incompatible with love, but springs from it. Unbelief is the parent of many unworthy fears, and of false humility too, which is but pride disguised under a well-sounding name. The soul that gives way to these enslaving enemies, may starve and grow lean, even when the table is spread with good things of the Lord's providing, whilst the willing and the obedient eat and are nourished. Lord! be Thou mine helper, for many are they that rise up against me. The enemies of my soul are lively and strong, but in Thee is my help. "Leave me not, neither forsake me, oh God of my salvation!"

To H. F.

Tottenham, *Fifth Month 12th*, 1840.

My dear Sister,

Thy affectionate and interesting letter was very welcome, for our thoughts do often visit you, and if I could as easily visit in reality, the chamber of thy long confinement and suffering, thou wouldest, I believe, frequently find me seated by thy side. That thou and our dear brother should acutely feel the return of the season, so deeply marked to you by scenes of the tenderest and most touching interest, is indeed to be expected; and worn, as both of you must be, by your respective portions of trial in the dispensation recently permitted, it is no wonder, strength and spirits should be ready to give way; but it is a favour to be enabled, my dear sister, to trace (as thou expressest it) the hand of a tender and compassionate Father, in our varied sorrows, and to believe that He mercifully designs to bless and sanctify every affliction, to his submissive and dependent children. . . . . .

As respects the beloved ones, whom it has pleased Him to take from us, and to lead through many tribulations to his own glorious and undefiled kingdom, we have, indeed, abundant cause, reverently to give Him thanks, and to rejoice on their account, that, safe from all the temptations and freed from all the sorrows of this mortal state, they, for ever, behold the face of their Saviour and are satisfied; and, if permitted to cast any glance towards the world through which they have travelled, or to know anything of what relates to those dearest to them here, we may be assured, their desires for us are, that we may be every day growing more fit for an entrance into that holy and happy region, and that an increasing conformity to the will and to the example of Him who died for us and rose again, may give evidence that we are seeking no longer to live unto ourselves. Oh! that we may experience much of this blessed fruit of sanctified suffering, through the grace that is in Christ our Saviour. . . . . .

Thy very affectionate,

M. S. Fox.

Eighth Month 7th, Sixth-day. Once more I take my pen, after a long suspension, in which there have been abundant proofs of the Lord's continued goodness, as well as of the truth, that the christian life is a continual warfare. The Yearly Meeting was a time of conflict to myself, in many ways. My mind imbibed too much discouragement, from the intimate view these meetings give us of the militant state of the body, and of the want of that spirit of divine charity, which, the apostle tells us, is "the bond of perfectness." Besides these causes of mental depression, outward circumstances were discouraging. My dear S. F. seriously disabled by a lameness which came on rather suddenly, and for which, entire rest and sea-air were recommended by the surgeons. Much company and many engagements, up to the very time of our leaving home, which was the day after our Monthly Meeting in the Sixth Month, when it seemed right for me to ask for liberty, to appoint a few public meetings at Brighton, and in the neighbourhood. Three years ago, when there for a few days, my mind was brought under exercise with respect to the inhabitants, and, in the prospect of going to spend some weeks by the sea, this

feeling was renewed, though the delicate state of my husband's health, and the expectation of having our three dear boys with us, caused me often to query, whether it could be right to look to such an engagement at the present time. However, after much desire to try the fleece, there seemed no way of escape from it, and when the willingness was wrought, a degree of peaceful, trustful quiet was experienced. A visit from S. Squire and E. Beck, who were visiting families here, was helpful and encouraging to us; for we were both very low, and the sympathy and unity of our dear friends was confirming.

We returned to our own beloved home last Second-day, after an interesting stay of more than seven weeks at Brighton. Six meetings were held in the town, some of them for particular classes of the inhabitants, others of a more general character. There were also meetings at Lewes, Shoreham and Southwick; in all, abundant cause for thankfulness. When we went, I was greatly discouraged about my dear husband's health, and very low myself as well as poorly,—fancied I must have a little time to recruit the body before any service of this kind could be set about. But in the first meeting of Friends we were at, whilst sitting under these feelings, it seemed to be clearly presented to my mind, that there must be no excuses or pleadings for ease; but that if there was a disposition to yield a willing obedience and to enter in simple faith upon the work, the Lord would not only supply the needful strength as it was wanted, but would also care for us in those other and important respects which were in part the object of our journey. I therefore ventured to propose the appointment of a meeting for that evening, which was cheerfully acceded to by our friends. The young men were diligent in giving the notice, and it proved a time of the renewal of our faith. Truly, our great and good Master has confirmed to his unworthy servants, the word whereon He caused them to hope. My dear S. F., who at first was unable to walk from our lodging to the meeting, though very near, could perform, when we left, a distance of more than two miles; his health also much improved.

The time spent with the dear children has brought us to the conclusion, that some change must be made, ere long, in our plan

for the education of the two younger ones, in order to secure for them greater advantages and more steady application. This has caused us much thoughtfulness, and earnest have been our desires for right direction in so important a matter; that these precious plants may be trained for the Lord's vineyard, and that no neglect or mismanagement of ours, may prevent their unfolding to the visitations of his love.

This evening, my dear husband brought me the intelligence, that he was nominated at the "Meeting for Sufferings," to accompany several other friends, going, by appointment, to visit those professing with us in the South of France. My small measure seemed pretty full before, but I dare not offer a word of discouragement. So great is the call for humble gratitude in his restoration to health, and so strong have been my desires, that we may be more fully devoted to the Lord's will in all things, that it would ill become me to murmur now. I saw the thing had taken hold of his mind; indeed, I believe the prospect was not new to him, though circumstances had appeared to render it improbable that he could make one of this deputation. I desire, if he do go, to commit him into the tender care and keeping of a good and gracious Master, who can strengthen him every way for his work and service.

20*th*, *Fifth-day*. My dear husband set off for Southampton, in order to embark for Havre. We were permitted to part under a precious feeling of trustful quiet; and after he was gone, I may thankfully acknowledge, the favour was continued to my mind;—great mercy to an unworthy creature!

To S. F.

Tottenham, *Eighth Month* 21*st*, 1840.

. . . . . I know that a little quiet time this morning cannot be more agreeably employed, nor is it likely to be better employed, than in beginning a letter to thee, to whom my thoughts constantly turn, and whose journeying I seem to myself to share; so intimately, are minds that experience a true union, blended together. I measured my day, yesterday, by what I fancied was the course of thine,—travelled with thee along the railroad,—dined

with thee at Southampton, and went on board the steamer, without leaving our peaceful home;—so "fleet is the glance of the mind!" The night here, was beautiful; the moon, though diminished in size, rose like a lamp of gold, and, I doubt not, lighted the waters for you. The morning glows with summer heat, and will, I conclude, be almost exhausting to you in the passage up the Seine.

I have stopped to read thy truly welcome billet from Southampton, as grateful as it was unlooked for. Do not be solicitous about me, for indeed, there is no cause. The covering of sweet peace, under which we were favoured to separate, is mercifully continued, and I feel thoroughly satisfied about thy going, desiring thou mayst not give thy mind any anxiety on my account, or be too much inclined to push on, beyond what is desirable for the important objects of your journey. . . . . I had a very quiet day,—went with our dear boys to meeting, where it was a comfort to assemble with our friends, stripped as we are. We had a communication from S. B., which I thought had a sweet savour. I love the variety and diversity of gifts, when they are exercised in simplicity.

Seventh-day morning. I hope thou hast had a comfortable night's rest in the French capital. How interesting to be there! though there is, no doubt, much in its state to affect the mind of the christian with sorrow. Yet, I think it is profitable to be brought into a position, which enables us to sympathize with different members of the human family in their varied circumstances, and to desire that the bond of brotherhood may be more felt and acknowledged amongst them. When shall pure christianity have free course in that fine country, and the moral and spiritual field be crowned with an abundant increase of those peaceable fruits of righteousness, which far transcend the richness of her natural produce? . . . . . My thoughts will be much with you to-morrow. May we be mutually favoured with access to the place of true refreshment! . . . . . .

M. S. F.

To S. F.

Tottenham, *Eighth Month 26th*, 1840.

. . . . . I am so sorry that my letter of yesterday, which was to meet thee at the entrance on your sphere of labour among the Friends of Nismes, &c., should be such a poor, profitless affair, and convey so little of the feelings of my heart, that I am inclined to take the freshness of the morning hour, to commune a little with thee,—now, as I fancy, journeying with thy dear companions along the road from Paris to Lyons. I love to think of this little embassy of peace, travelling through a country like France, where, though you may deem the opportunities of usefulness to be very small, I trust you will occasionally find means to diffuse something of the benignant influence of christianity. But when you come to the little company, on whose account this journey has been undertaken, I can believe thy faith will be brought low,—that, weary in body, depressed by external circumstances, and the enemy not backward to raise difficulties and to wrest from thee (if he can do so) the shield, thou mayst be ready to give way to discouragement, and perhaps, at times, almost to question wherefore thou art come. Now, whilst I think my mind tenderly sympathizes in all this, I would say, "Be of good cheer."—"Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it." He expects his people to walk by faith, and disciplines them accordingly, often causing them to feel peculiarly their own weakness and poverty, when He is about to give them fresh evidence of his unchangeable goodness and almighty power. Baptized, not only on their own account, but for the body's sake, and it may be also for the dead, they are ready to say,—Surely, I never had any right call to this work and therefore am now to feel the consequence of running unsent; but, my dearest, if any thing like this should attend thy mind, I trust it will also be given thee to feel, that this is no new thing; or if thou shouldest be ready to apprehend, on the other hand, that there is not the exercise which thou mightst have expected to feel,—still, be not afraid or distrustful. But, why should I write thus to thee? only because, in that precious unity which we are permitted to ex-

perience, I am led to apprehend thou mayst have one or other of these trials, at the commencement of thy work, and I desire, weak and feeble as I am, to encourage thee to a trustful reliance on the great and good Shepherd. "When He putteth forth his own sheep, He goeth before them," and this, I do confidingly believe, will be experienced by your brotherly band, both in your united and individual character,—that the Lord, who has inclined your hearts, thus to go forth in the service of the church, will make you instrumental to the comforting of her waste places. You may see, indeed, little prospect of her wilderness becoming like Eden, but, I cannot doubt, you will find hands that hang down to be strengthened, and, it may be, ground also to be cleared,—good seed that hath been sown by the Lord of the harvest, to be watered, perhaps weeded also. For every department of this work, may He be pleased to strengthen and qualify you, and sustain you with the secret assurance, that however unpromising the field, the labour of those who seek to be found faithful, is not in vain in the Lord.

Fifth-day morning. I again come to the sweet employment of writing a few lines to thee. After a refreshing and most resting night, my mind is peaceful, and filled with some sense of the many blessings bestowed on one so unworthy. I think of thee and the dear friends with whom thou art associated, as already beginning your day's journey, from one of your halting places for the night. Every particular of thy letter is very interesting. I long to know whether you saw Louis Philippe. I trust you did not lose the opportunity of speaking in his ear, some words in favour of peace. What infatuation! that two great nations, who are every way interested in the preservation of mutual relations, should suffer themselves to indulge the spirit of contention, to their own disadvantage and that of all civilized Europe; to say nothing of the anti-christian nature of war, which, it is surely time for England, at least, fully to recognize. . . . . How sweet it is to meet in spirit, and to have, even in low seasons, the comfort of believing ourselves in our right allotment. . . . . .

M. S. F.

To S. F.

Tottenham, *Eighth Month 30th*, 1840.

. . . . . Though I do not often write letters on this day, I think it will not be a mis-employment of my time, to begin a sheet for thee, who art my constant companion in spirit, though so far separated. What a precious privilege is enjoyed by those, who know their union has a solid foundation, and who are permitted to taste, in some small measure, of that fellowship which the Lord's children have, one with another, in Him! I do not know, in the absence of any information since you left Paris, whether I may fancy you to-day, at Nismes, or whether Lyons may be your place of rest. However this may be, I trust the Lord has been pleased to give you some refreshing sense of his presence, and to confirm your faith in Him, by the renewed evidence, that He, "the same Lord over all, is rich unto all that call upon Him."

To me, it has felt a tranquil day, and I am thankful to say, this has been more than usually the state of my mind, on the whole, since we parted; which I accept as a special favour from Him who knows our frame, and as a sweet intimation, that thy absence is in his ordering. When I look forward, it seems indeed, as if it would be long, but then my mind is quieted by the consideration, that only one day is to be lived at once, and that the same good Hand that now upholds me, can and will uphold me still, as there is an entire willingness to refer all to his disposal. Therefore, my dear, though thy society is my greatest earthly joy, I dare not ask that thy absence should be shortened one day, for my gratification. Oh, no! rather mayst thou be found faithful in all things, and be enabled to commit thyself and us, from day to day, to the good keeping of the Shepherd of Israel. I have been instructed, this afternoon, in reading some account of John Camm, by the exemplary conduct of his wife, who freely gave him up to his gospel labours, though tenderly united to him and greatly valuing his company; a proof that they had something whereon to rest.

I finished my last on Fifth-day; it was rather an interesting day to us. We had a very sweet, and I think I may say, seasonable visit from dear Dr. Steinkopff, who came down to attend the

Bible Meeting, and was kindly brought by E. H., to call on us. They took tea here, and very pleasant it was, as well as instructive. The dear boys read their portion of Scripture, and he gave them a most simple, and I thought, sweet and appropriate, exhortation; and after sitting some little time, offered up a short petition, with solemnity and feeling. . . . . .

M. S. F.

Ninth Month 2nd, Fourth-day. Went with sister M. F. and her daughters and our dear boys, to Hampton Court. The day was exceedingly fine, and we enjoyed our visit to this ancient palace of our sovereigns; the park and gardens beautiful and in very good order. It is a privilege to have such free access, as is now granted, to this interesting place. I was rather reluctant to go, but was glad I had not yielded to idleness or dulness, for it was really a gratifying excursion, and one so rational for our dear young folks, that we were well satisfied in having taken them. My home, though stripped, feels peaceful, and the quiet of it is congenial to my feelings.

13*th, First-day.* Dull, cold and unprofitable. Two poor meetings, as to my own feelings; indeed my mind is at times so dead, when we thus meet, that I am ready to compare myself to the heath in the desert, not seeing when good cometh. "The wind bloweth where it listeth," said our blessed Saviour, when He spoke of the quickening power of the Holy Spirit, "and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth;" and surely, the changes of dispensation permitted to the christian in his experience, are well calculated to teach him his entire dependence upon this blessed and divine agency,—but do I seek it in earnestness and sincerity? "Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." What a promise is here! How can they receive, who are too indolent to ask? Stir up my dull affections, O Lord! and bring me truly to thy footstool. "Deliver me in thy righteousness and cause me to escape; incline thine ear unto me and save me."

A letter, yesterday, from my dear S. To know he has been enabled, with his companions, to get thus far through their interesting engagement, and to travel so many hundred miles, safely, is

a favour indeed. My heart is humbled, I think, under a sense of the Lord's mercies, in some of my lonely hours at home. The last two weeks have brought very closely into view, the circumstances of my dear sister's closing days, but I have been thankful for some degree of ability, to look towards the happiness and blessedness of the state she now enjoys, rather than to dwell on the remembrance of those suffering days, that preceded the liberation of the ransomed spirit from its mortal habitation.

To S. F.

Tottenham, *Ninth Month* 15*th*, 1840.

. . . . . I begin thus early, because quiet time for writing is not always at command, and I do not like to feel hurried in writing to thee. This sheet will, I hope, await thy arrival in Paris. What a delightful thought! but my mind shrinks from the long and continuous journey that is to bring thee there. Now, do take all the rest thou canst at Paris, to prepare for the additional journey and voyage. Remember, that you have bodies as well as minds, and that when you get to London, new claims will press upon you, in a very different atmosphere from that you have lately breathed. I dearly love my native country, and think I am, in some degree, prepared to say, with Cowper,

> "I would not yet exchange thy sullen skies,
> And fields without a flower, for warmer France
> With all her vines:"—

because we have many rich blessings and privileges, to set against the comparative disadvantages of climate; but I confess, your description of the unclouded sunshine, the delicious air and the clear sky, with the animating effects they produce on the frame, does almost make me long to taste it; or at least, renders me somewhat more sensible of the damp chilliness and sombre shade, we now experience. However, though it is so different just at present, we have had very lovely weather, and, last week, were ready to think, it could not be much more so, even in the south of France. What a fine country France must be! Oh! when shall her moral atmosphere bear any resemblance to the natural,

—when shall the eyes of her people generally (as well as of our own) be divinely opened to behold Him,

> "Who, retired
> Behind his own creation, works unseen
> By the impure, and hears his power denied."

Well! so long as there is ecclesiastical domination, I am inclined to think there will be infidelity, and that, perhaps, in proportion to the extent of this domination and the power of its influence. Is it not so? Surely the call is as great now as ever it was, to our little Society, few in number as we are, to maintain our testimony to the purity, the simplicity, the freeness and the spirituality of the gospel.

Fourth-day morning. I now think of thee, as on thy journey from Nismes, and felt it a comfort, last evening, to be enabled to enter a little into feeling with thee, in quitting the scene of your labours. Both then and after our reading this morning, I thought there was something like sweet communion of spirit, and a degree of renewed ability to commit thee to the tender care and keeping of the Shepherd of Israel, who, I fully believe, led thee out, and, I humbly trust, will preserve thee in the way and bring thee home in peace. . . . . .

M. S. F.

Ninth Month 30th, Fourth-day. Having now the unspeakable comfort of my dear husband's company, he having been favoured to reach his home in safety, last Fifth-day (the 24th) I feel bound to record my grateful sense of the Lord's multiplied mercies to us both. He is returned in comfortable health, and, what is more, under a peaceful feeling of the help afforded in the prosecution of their engagement, and the preservations experienced throughout their long journey, both by sea and land. The little brotherly band of visitors were united in the service in much harmony, and it appears to have been a very seasonable and acceptable visit to those, on whose account they were induced to go. The circumstances of those who profess with us, in the South of France, are such as could not fail to bring them into a deep feeling of christian interest and concern for their best welfare, and I trust the labour they were strengthened to bestow, will prove

to have been not altogether in vain in the Lord. On their long journey through France, both in going and returning, they had many opportunities for the distribution of tracts, which were generally gladly received, and some intercourse with those they met with, of an interesting character; though their minds were painfully affected by the prevalence of superstition, infidelity and vice. They returned home by way of Boulogne, where they were detained a day by rough weather, and afterwards encountered some perils in the voyage, by running foul of another steamer, in a dark, blowing night, near Boulogne. For the blessing of preservation and the many other favours which have marked this interesting journey, my soul desires reverently to praise the name of the Lord, and to be more fully given up to all his blessed will.

On First-day, we were quietly with our dear children, who were at home together, and on the following day, we took our S. L. to join his brother, at school. We felt it an important step, though very grateful to our feelings to retain him so near us; yet this being his first entrance on a regular course of school education, and departure from our own roof, it was an interesting day to us. We are thankful for the feeling of quietness and a trustful spirit, in thus committing him to the care of those, who, we fully believe, are religiously concerned to perform their duty in the divine fear; and, above all, for some renewed sense of the ever-watchful care and kindness of the unslumbering Shepherd.

Tenth Month 1*st*, *Fifth-day.* I feel, this morning, a fresh call for gratitude, in being permitted to experience some sweet sense of the Lord's sustaining presence, under circumstances of great poverty, as to the spiritual life. Ever since our return from Brighton, there has been this proving of faith, yet, in great mercy, accompanied, at times, with a quiet which is inexpressibly precious, enabling the mind to lay hold on the assurance, that it is a good thing to wait upon the Lord and to wait *for* Him too. Oh! that I may be kept in a truly watchful frame, and, in all the changes of season, seek after submission to the will of my Heavenly Father. But, how my own will continually rises in one way or another!

A few days after the last memorandum was written, Maria Fox applied for, and obtained, the sanction of her friends, for some religious service among the younger members of her own Monthly Meeting and that of Ratcliff and Barking, by visiting them in their families.

20*th*, *Third-day.* At the Monthly Meeting at Ratcliff, yesterday, with a view of soon entering on a visit to the young Friends, within the compass of that Monthly Meeting and our own. A low time, as to my own feelings,—poor and empty enough, yet felt it a privilege to be present, when dear E. J. F. returned her certificate, after visiting the meetings in Gloucestershire, Wilts, &c. The account she gave, instructive and encouraging.

25*th*, *First-day.* Went to the meeting at Ratcliff under some discouragement, and flat enough as to the work. Poor faithless creature! how unworthy to be employed in such a service. Sat the fore part of the meeting in the utmost dryness. E. J. F. was engaged in supplication, and my husband spoke on the parable of the labourers. It gave me a lift, and something was afterwards expressed on the necessity of walking by faith. Oh, how needful for myself! Surely, we ought to be thankful for the exercise of our faith in such way as is seen meet by our Heavenly Father.

26*th*, *Second-day.* Paid several visits in Ratcliff, accompanied by A. H., in addition to some the day before with E. J. F. Reached home in the afternoon;—sent for, soon after my arrival, to the school, our dear S. being very poorly.

27*th*, *Third-day.* Went to our dear child, in the forenoon; stayed with him till it was time to go to London, a meeting being appointed for the evening, with the young Friends of Ratcliff meeting. I hope it was a time of some favour and solemnity.

28*th*, *Fourth-day.* Removed our dear boy home; very weak and having still much fever. Felt it a great privilege to give myself entirely to the nursing of this precious invalid.

Eleventh Month 22*nd*, *First-day.* Many are the changes of

feeling which are to be experienced by the christian traveller, especially by such as are, through the Lord's condescending mercy, at times employed as the medium of gospel invitation and instruction to others. It is very necessary for these to be brought often to the feeling acknowledgment of their own unprofitableness, and the importance of experiencing, continually, the cleansing and renewing power of the Holy Spirit. How awful is the view of my own condition, after having been engaged in holding up to others, the high standard at which the christian is to aim!

Our beloved friend S. B. has, with the concurrence of the Monthly Meeting, united in the visit to the families of those Friends here, who have children. I have felt it a true comfort and privilege to be associated with this experienced labourer, and we have been permitted to move along in great harmony. Since our return from Epping, I have been very poorly,—brought low every way;—such a view of my own worthlessness as would be overwhelming, were it not for the remembrance of the Lord's mercy. The words of the apostle, "lest that by any means when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway," have been often in my thoughts. May these stripping seasons produce the right effect, and drive me, in true humility, to Him who is the only refuge. "In the Lord have I righteousness and strength," said one of his servants of old. Oh! that in seeking to dwell in his fear, and to be conformed to his will, I may experience some ability to adopt such a language. The visit to the young Friends in Plaistow meeting, yet remains to be paid. The time for it does not seem clearly to open. Whilst confined to the house and much to my bed, by indisposition, it has been a good deal withdrawn, and I have been ready to conclude I might be excused altogether; but this I desire to leave.

To a Niece.

Tottenham, *Eleventh Month 28th*, 1840.

My dear M.,

I am so much pleased with thy letter, that I am not willing it should remain long unacknowledged, and therefore am desirous of scribbling a few lines to-day. Do not apologize for writing with

entire freedom to me. Those "uppermost thoughts," I like to have; they bring to remembrance the feelings and imaginations of early days. Perhaps, in return for them, I may give thee some of the graver meditations of more advanced years; though in reading them, I can almost fancy thee exclaiming, "Well! I do not know what change thirty or forty years may work in me, but I certainly think I shall never become quite such a matter-of-fact person as this." However, my dear girl, facts, after all, are stubborn things, and one such as the retreat of Napoleon's army from Moscow, would spoil volumes of panegyric, though spoken by "A Voice from St. Helena." Thou tellest me, that book has made thee like Bonaparte, whom thou disliked very much before. Now, I have some sympathy with thee, for I well remember the interest with which I read it. It rouses one's indignation to hear of a man, who exercised a delegated authority on behalf of a great nation like England, inflicting all sorts of petty annoyances upon a fallen and captive enemy; when that enemy too, was one, who, but a few years before, had seen the half of civilized Europe crouching at his feet, whilst he bestowed crowns and sceptres with almost as much ease as ordinary princes give stars and ribbons.* But the conduct of Sir Hudson Lowe need not affect our estimate of Napoleon's character; there is too much reason to apprehend, he was essentially the same in his comfortless exile at Longwood, as he was at Austerlitz and Jena, although his altered circumstances give us a different feeling towards him. The whole of that extraordinary man's history affords a great and teaching lesson,—shows us the deep corruption and the innate selfishness of the unrenewed heart of man, operating variously indeed, in different individuals, but prompting alike the arbitrary and military despot who could coolly sacrifice hundreds of thousands of his people to the gratification of his personal vanity or ambition, and the governor of a small island, who could find pleasure in offering useless affronts and vexations, to exhibit his own importance and his power to harass a prisoner, before whom he would perhaps once have considered it, (according to this world's

* The foregoing letter was written before any doubts had been thrown on the truth of the charges brought against Sir Hudson Lowe, or at all events, the writer was evidently not aware of the existence of such doubts.—ED.

false estimate) an honour to stand. So that after all, we must look for true greatness and nobility of character in a very different direction, seeing that nothing short of the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit can cleanse the corrupt tree, and cause it to bring forth fruit unto holiness. . . . . .

I am glad you like the books, and that you are trying to get acquainted with the names of the constellations. How brilliant they have been on some evenings lately! I do not know whether Marsh's Astrarium is out of print, but it is very useful to learn them by; as it gives, in twelve designs, the principal stars visible in each month, at a certain hour in the evening, together with their positions. . . . . .

Thy very affectionate aunt,
M. S. Fox.

Twelfth Month 8th, Third-day. Many unsuccessful efforts have been made about the visits at Plaistow. After many communications on the subject, it has not been found that any arrangement could be made in conjunction with E. J. F. This has caused me some discouragement, and brought me again and again to a searching inquiry, whether I had missed my way in regard to this prospect, or what might be the teaching intended to be conveyed. My dear husband has nearly sympathized with me, and has been brought to the conclusion, that it may be right for him to unite in this part of the service, if our friends at our next Monthly Meeting encourage it. This is a great relief and comfort to me, and cause of much thankfulness.

My mind is often deeply affected with the awfulness of the consideration, that life is fast hastening away, and the period rapidly approaching, when there must be a full realization of those solemn truths which have so often been held up before the view of others; and under such feelings, the desire is raised, that there may be an increase of that true and living faith, which only can enable us to grasp, as it were, the great realities which affect the interests of the immortal soul,— that there may be the daily and hourly application for this,—for ability to look beyond the things that are seen and are temporal, to those that are not seen and are eternal. How would this cure us of petty anxieties, and

cause the trifles that are so apt to draw on our attention and ruffle our tranquillity here, to be swallowed up in the all-important object of being made meet for an inheritance with the saints in light, and in the constant endeavour, through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called! But it is indeed a warfare!—many evil thoughts and evil passions to struggle with, and the enemy pressing hard to wrest the weapons from a feeble hand. But whence arises our feebleness?—not because there is not an ample supply of strength for all who are willing rightly to seek and faithfully to use it, but because our treacherous hearts do so often parley with the tempter, and because we do not flee at once to the only place of refuge, where his arrows would be spent in vain.

1841. *First Month 25th, Second-day.* I feel a little inclination this morning, to add another record of the Lord's mercies to an unworthy creature.

Since the last date, they have been afresh experienced in many ways. The visit to the young Friends of Plaistow accomplished, in conjunction with my dear S. F.,—a pleasant vacation with our dear boys,—my husband's annual visit to Wellington paid, and he restored in safety to his family;—all these favours claim the tribute of lively gratitude. And though the winter has been severe, and my bodily health so affected by it as to confine me to the house for some weeks, I trust this time of seclusion has not been wholly without profit. Amidst great weakness of faith and want of spiritual liveliness, there has been some sense of the continued goodness of the Lord, and some desires raised after a growing conformity to his will,—a feeling of the preciousness of that love, which unites the hearts of those who desire to follow the Lord Jesus,—and, at times, a secret breathing of soul unto Him, that He would strengthen us to give up our hearts more unreservedly to his government, whose right it is to rule.

After returning from Plaistow, a meeting was held with the young Friends here, which seemed pretty much to close that service in these two Monthly Meetings.

Second Month 23rd, First-day. The condition of the poor, in the neighbourhood of London, is very affecting. Such dense masses of misery, as we have no idea of in the country, where

wages are a great deal lower. The high price of labour in London and the neighbourhood, does not seem to produce those results which should naturally flow from it. It is too much the habit of the working-classes to spend what they get, whether less or more, and the high rate of wages induces such multitudes to crowd together, where there is any hope of obtaining them, that there are, after all, large numbers wholly unemployed. The high rents and the price of provisions must also be taken into account, with the demoralizing effect of that mixed and crowded state in which they live. How I long that our Society, small as are its numbers comparatively, could in some way or other find, consistently with its principles, a mode of exerting a more direct and powerful influence upon the moral and spiritual condition of the poor in London. Friends are very liberal to their poor neighbours; and in much of what is done, they are active and useful; but is there not still a work for which our Society is peculiarly fitted,—an extensive field of labour? May the Lord prepare and direct the labourers!

Third Month 10*th*, *Fourth-day.* Since the last date, a visit has been paid to the young Friends in Stoke Newington meeting, similar to the one here and at Plaistow. It has been an engagement, in the prospect of which and often in the accomplishment, faith has been closely proved, but there is much cause, thankfully to acknowledge the help mercifully afforded, and the quiet, peaceful covering that has attended the conclusion of the service. I think my heart is humbled, under the fresh sense of the Lord's goodness to his unworthy servants, and in the belief, that discouraging as are present appearances in many cases, He is still mindful of us,—still seeks to bless us, and would fulfil, even to our poor Society, his own promise, (if the work be not marred upon the wheel through impatience or the want of true submission,) that "instead of thy fathers there shall be thy children." But, alas! many are the devices of the evil one; and great need there is for young and old, to remember the injunction of our dear Redeemer, "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." May I seek to be found continually so doing!

11*th*, *Fifth-day.* Returned the minute to our Monthly Meeting. This day, our dear and valued friend D. S., was taken

from her family and friends, we can fully believe, to a brighter inheritance; but the loss to them is great indeed, and our hearts are deeply affected in feeling for them.

18*th*, *Fifth-day*. A large, and I think it may be said, solemn meeting, on the occasion of the interment of our late friend D. S.; a considerable part of it held in silence. As to myself, there seemed no ability to minister, though my mind was brought into very near and tender sympathy with our dear friend and his bereft children. A day of deep conflict to him, but the rock of his strength and his refuge is in God, and the assurance that this will be found unfailing, not only in the present trying hour, but in future times of need, was sweetly prevalent. We were invited to take tea at the house, in the evening; and felt bound to go. We were favoured with a very quiet, may we not say, solemn season of retirement. I hope there was cause, thankfully to believe, the evening of this exercising day was afresh owned by the living presence of the Lord,—"the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort." To Him be the praise!

CHAPTER XVI.

1841. Interment of a friend—Quarterly Meeting—Yearly Meeting—Accident to a son—Journey to Ireland—Death of J. Sanderson—Religious engagements at Leicester.

Third Month. I have felt desirous, on re-perusing these memoranda, that if they should hereafter be read by my dear children, (on whose account principally, I have felt restrained from destroying them) they may not be discouraged by the somewhat mournful strain of many of the pages. They will not forget the happy days of social and domestic enjoyment, passed in their early years, under the parental roof; and will, I trust, feel that although the trials of life are many, and those who would walk in the divine fear, must have their secret provings of faith and patience, yet the christian, who seeks to regulate his desires and to know them restrained by the spirit of truth, has his full share of happiness, even here. Their hearts will remind them, that their dear parents were permitted, amidst many exercises, of which they could then form little idea, to take much comfort and pleasure in the society of their children, and to partake, with a true zest, in their recreations and gratifications. And, though, from continued delicacy of health, their mother was, at one period, much disqualified for some kinds of active exertion, (and no doubt the mind partook, in degree, of the weakness of the body) yet this very circumstance made her more their companion, and more intimately a participator in their pursuits and feelings. So that I sometimes think, few families have been more favoured in true happiness, or the endearing confidence that may subsist between parents and children.

23*rd, Third-day.* Went, last evening, with my husband to see H. B.,—found him very mournful,—worn down in body and mind, by long anxiety, loss of rest and sorrow. In a little time of retirement, some desire was felt and expressed, for his encouragement to lay hold on the consolations that are offered, in

the tender mercy of the Lord, to those who desire to commit themselves into his hand.

27*th*, *Seventh-day*. Felt this morning, on first waking, the comfort of the consideration, that the christian religion is a religion of hope, and that it is the merciful design of the great Head of the church, that we should cherish hope, both as respects ourselves and others. The discouraging views, some religious and devoted people seem to think they are called upon, continually to hold up, do not appear to me calculated to help themselves or the body. I have often been instructed in observing, how little the first preachers of christianity dwelt on their own trials; on the contrary, how they endeavoured, constantly, to stimulate those to whom they wrote, to look towards the one great object of faith and hope, and so looking, to press toward the mark for the prize of their high calling. That discouragements abound, we cannot doubt, and they will thicken upon us in every direction, if we are always poring over and magnifying them. Oh! for more of the lively and efficacious faith that can remove mountains,—for more of the spirit of love and of a sound mind.

To a Son.

Third Month 31*st*, 1841.

My dear M.,

Though I had scarcely any opportunity, yesterday, of talking to thee about the book thou hast so kindly sent me, I wish thee to know, I was much gratified by this proof of thy love and thy remembrance of my birth-day. I believe it is good for us to cherish these feelings one towards another, and very precious to the heart of a parent, is the love and sympathy of dutiful children. Birth-days have now a very solemn aspect to me; seeing so many have passed away, and every one brings me nearer to the end of all things here. Not that I wish us to look, with gloomy feelings, towards the end, but to be seriously impressed with the importance of being found, whenever it may come, in a state of readiness. In this respect, I desire to have not only the tender love and remembrance, but the prayers of my dear children; that the Lord, in his mercy, would be pleased to make me and to keep me, ready for the summons.

We are abundantly blessed, my dear child, in the love one of another, as a family; and I hope we shall bear in mind, that the way for this love to flourish and to grow continually, is for each to seek after the help of the Holy Spirit, that we may be going on in our several duties with diligence, in the fear of the Lord; and may have the love of Christ daily renewed in our hearts. If we truly love Him, we shall love each other for his sake, as well as for the tender relation that subsists between us; and so, our natural love will be heightened and made perfect, lasting beyond the short period of our life here below.

With tender affection, from thy mother,

M. F.

Fourth Month 11*th*, *First-day.* Since the last date, our Quarterly Meeting has been held; these large assemblies are always very serious to me. I ventured (a thing unusual with me at such times) to speak a little in the meeting for worship, on the blessedness of "those servants, whom the Lord, when He cometh, shall find watching." In the evening meeting, I felt unable to get rid of a weight which had rested with me through the day, without acknowledging to my friends, some attraction to visit the men's meeting. It was very trying to my natural feelings to go, but it seemed the only way for peace. Dear A. H. went with me. I trust, some renewal of best help was experienced, and on coming away, as well as the next morning, a covering of peace was vouchsafed; but the enemy buffeted me afterwards. He is a cruel adversary,—fertile in expedients to shake the stedfastness of our faith, and to mar the peace of the soul. What a promise was that given by Christ to those whom He sent forth, that they should "tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy;" and how instructive to remember, that even such an experience was not to be the ground of their rejoicing, but rather that their names were written in heaven.

To a Son.

18*th of Fourth Month*, 1841.

My dear J.,

I do not forget that this is thy birth-day; and I am desirous of telling thee, on this day, how earnestly thy parents desire thy hap-

pincss. Now, I believe thou knowest, that the way to be happy, is to seek, day by day, to live in the love and in the fear of God, thy Father in heaven. It is his blessed will that we should be happy here and hereafter, but we cannot be so, if we disobey Him, and neglect his holy commandment. He has given us, in the Bible, a great deal of instruction,—has shown us what is our duty to Him, and one to another, and has told us the great things He has done for us, in sending his own dear Son, to be a sacrifice for our sins and to lead us in the way of holiness. Besides all this, He causes his Holy Spirit to strive with us, to discover to us our secret sins,—those things we do, or say, or think, which are contrary to the will of the Lord, and offend Him. Though no one may know them, He knows them, and in his great mercy, He reproves us for them in the secret of the soul; causing us to feel very miserable oftentimes, when we have grieved his good Spirit. Now, my dear child, this is what we long for, that our dear and precious children may mind these reproofs, that they may not seek to turn from them, but that they may be willing to listen to the heavenly Teacher, and may seek for strength to obey this voice of Christ, the good Shepherd, that so, they may be his lambs, whom He will bless, and feed, and keep. If you live in the constant desire to keep near to Him, He will be near to you, and will preserve you here, and, through his great mercy, prepare you for his holy kingdom, when you shall go from this world.

That so it may be with thee, my beloved child, is the earnest desire of thy very affectionate

MOTHER.

Fifth Month 11*th, Third-day.* Another Yearly Meeting at hand,—formidable in prospect, and when I remember what were my feelings at the close of the last, my heart shrinks: nature does not love suffering. Oh! for the spirit of love and of holy confidence! Doubting,—doubting, still. Surely, a halting, distrustful spirit is a burden, only to be thrown off at the foot of the cross. What wonderful condescension! that such poor, miserable, faithless creatures, should ever be employed in setting forth the gospel message, or constrained to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. My mind has been greatly cast down

for some weeks past, but at our meetings, last Fifth-day and on First-day, there was some fresh ability to remember the Lord's mercies, ancient and new; and to rejoice in the assurance, that He is still the refuge of his people. May He keep me in his fear continually!

14*th*, *Sixth-day.* Some feeling of thankfulness this morning, for the many blessings showered down upon us, and with it, I trust, something also of a prayerful desire, that we may be wholly given up to the Lord's will, and that He may be pleased to make us and ours, what He would have us to be,—that our dear children may bend to the visitations of his love, and be preserved from the many temptations of the enemy.

Sixth Month 2*nd*, *Fourth-day.* The Yearly Meeting is over, and has proved to many, a season of some renewal of faith. To myself, a time of humiliation and instruction.* May I not say,—I was brought low, and the Lord helped me. The uniting love that was permitted to prevail amongst Friends, and the solemn covering spread at times over the meetings, affording renewed evidence, that the mercy of the Lord is yet towards us as a people. Many testimonies concerning deceased ministers,—interesting memorials, by which those who have ceased from their labours amongst us, were sweetly brought into view, and some capacity was felt to rejoice in the belief, that they are now receiving the end of their faith, and are, though absent from the body, for ever present with the Lord. For the many favours and privileges of the last two weeks, may we be humbly thankful, and continually remember from whose hand they come. Every fresh feeling of love, hope or confidence, is from "the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort," whose is the power, and to whom belongs now and evermore the glory.

22*nd*, *Third-day.* My mind was affected, whilst dressing this morning, with the remembrance of what was suffered, bodily and mentally, when we wintered at Bath, more than five years ago. A sweet and humbling view of the Lord's tender mercy, in carrying me through that season of affliction, and raising me from the low state to which I was then brought, tendered my spirit,

* On this occasion, M. F. first acted in the capacity of clerk to the Yearly Meeting of women friends.

and raised the solemn inquiry,—what have been the returns made unto Him,—how have I performed the "vows which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble?" Lord! make me more faithful, and more fruitful.

23*rd*, *Fourth-day*. Some precious sense of the Lord's continued mercy to us and ours. Oh! for more of the spirit of grace and of supplications, more ardent and frequent breathings of soul after a growing conformity to the divine will; that we may bear the image of the heavenly, the second Adam, the Lord from heaven.

Seventh Month 11*th*, *First-day*. The last two weeks has been a season of deep trial to my dear husband and myself. We are brought low;—may it be true humiliation of soul before the Lord, whose hand is so evidently laid upon us in the way of chastening! Our beloved J., whilst at play with some young friends, received the stroke of an arrow on the right eye, and the injury is such as to make us apprehensive of the loss of the sight. For some days, much hope was entertained that it would not prove serious, but the opinion of the surgeons now is, that we cannot calculate on his retaining much, if any, useful vision, in the injured eye. This is very affecting to our hearts; and we regard it as a solemn call to us from the Lord, who "doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men." Oh! that we may seek daily and hourly to know his holy will, and be enabled to pray fervently for the help of the Spirit, that so the peaceable fruits of righteousness may be brought forth. How many are the thoughts and feelings that fill the heart of a parent under such a circumstance! Sometimes, my mind seems almost overpowered by them, but at other times, a calm and confiding sense of the merciful kindness and unfailing compassion of our Father in heaven is sweetly prevalent, and there seems some ability to kiss the rod, and to acknowledge his undoubted right to deal, as it pleaseth Him, with us and ours, to commit this dear child into the Lord's hand, who can supply all his need, spiritually as well as naturally.

Eighth Month 8*th*, *First-day*. My mind has been in a low state for some time past,—temptations not wanting; for the enemy is ready to take advantage of all circumstances; and

outward occupations have been so numerous, I am often ready to fear, the spiritual life suffers for want of retirement and opportunity for secret waiting upon the Lord. But whilst I write this sentence, I am led to feel the importance of considering, whether there is a disposition to use such opportunities as are afforded. Do we not often complain of the want of that which, when it is possessed, is little prized and very negligently used. Oh, what inconsistent creatures are we! I have been led to think a good deal lately, of the importance of endeavouring to fix our minds more upon the duty of the present day and hour. If we could but keep in view the uncertainty of our having another day to live, how anxiously should we seek to be found in the faithful discharge of present duty! how it would stimulate us to watchfulness and prayer, and, at the same time, free the mind from unprofitable anxiety about the future. Is it not one of the stratagems of the great enemy, to busy us with contrivance for the time that may never arrive, that so he may prevent us from the exercise of continual dependence and simple faith.

Eleventh Month 19*th*, *Sixth-day.* The three months since the last memorandum was made, have not been months of vacancy, but a time that ought to yield fruits of faith and of love, for it has been attended by much that is of a deeply instructive character, and the retrospect of it is calculated to call forth feelings of lively gratitude to our great and gracious Preserver.

Our dear child so far recovered from the effects of his serious accident as to resume his usual pursuits, and his health is apparently unimpaired by the powerful means resorted to. This is a cause of thankfulness that does often affect our hearts. The latter part of the Eighth Month, I spent with him at Ipswich, for the benefit of his health. On our return, my dear S. F. and I were best satisfied to go to Clonmel, in order to see once more, my cousin S. H. G., whose increased illness rendered her continuance, from day to day, very doubtful. A deeply interesting week we spent there, much of it in her chamber, and the remembrance of it is satisfactory, now that she has finished her earthly pilgrimage, though accompanied with many reflections of a mournful character.

On reaching home, we found our brother J. S., who had recently returned from a long journey on the continent, was no more in this world,—suddenly taken, after a few hours' illness at the house of a friend; his nearest relatives arrived, and preparation making for the funeral. When these solemn and affecting duties were paid, my husband thought it right to go down to Wellington for a few days. I accompanied him; the visit was, I think, seasonable, though my own mind was little in a state to impart comfort to any. The very serious prospect of some religious service in the compass of Leicester Monthly Meeting, for which the certificate of our Monthly Meeting had been granted, weighing heavily upon me. Spiritual deadness and darkness seemed to be my portion; still, we felt a degree of satisfaction in having endeavoured to discharge a kindred duty.

It is now rather more than a week since I reached home from Leicester, where three weeks were spent under the truly hospitable roof of our valued friend A. B. Our dear friend R. F. was liberated by our Monthly Meeting to unite in this visit, but was prevented by an attack of indisposition from sharing in the whole. My dear husband went down with me and stayed a few days; during which time, two meetings were held with the labouring poor, in different districts of the town, and one at Ridlington Park. The visit to that spot, where so much time was spent in my early days, was very touching to my feelings, bringing many into near remembrance,—some who are now, I fully believe, inhabitants of a better world; and recalling vividly the associations of the past. The dear family who still occupy it, though in solitude as to Friends, of whom there are none within sixteen miles, keep a meeting in their own house, and are, I trust, made sensible, at times, in their seclusion, that it is good to wait upon the Lord. The meeting held on their premises was attended by about one hundred and seventy labourers, from their own and neighbouring farms, who were remarkably quiet and orderly. I think it was a solemn time, in which best help was mercifully afforded. We were also at the week-day meeting at Hinckley, where one member sits down with two or three of his neighbours, who incline to join him. On this occasion, the invitation was more extended, and a number of poor people, chiefly men, were assembled. A

precious quiet spread over the meeting; and I hope we had no cause to regret having gone to visit them. I do believe there were seeking souls present, who were in some degree prepared to appreciate the mode of worship adopted by our Society; and these were encouraged to look in faith to Him, who is the ever-living Head and High Priest of his church. After this meeting, my husband left me. I returned to Leicester, and was soon joined by R. F., who came down with her husband, whose company we had for a few days, much to our comfort and help. The visit to the families of Friends was then entered upon, and other meetings held with the labouring poor of Leicester; also one at the village of Wigston. The service was felt to be a very solemn one in its various parts, and strong desires were raised, that we might be favoured with best direction from step to step, and that the eye might be kept single to the great and good Shepherd. I humbly trust, He did condescend to lead us, and from time to time supplied our need, (not without provings of faith) and enabled us in the end, to acknowledge that his grace had been sufficient. To Him be all the praise!

We are now enjoying the return to our own families and friends; after having largely partaken of the kindness of those among whom our lot was cast. I have felt, since I came home, the great necessity there is to seek after a watchful state of mind; that in the return to daily duties, there may be a daily renewal of that strength, which only can qualify us for the right discharge of our allotted portion, whatever may be the nature of it. That is a very striking expression of the apostle Paul, "Whatsoever is not of faith, is sin," Oh! to know the life of faith nourished in secret; and in order to this, there must be a life of prayer,—of inward communion with Him, who is a spirit and must be worshipped in spirit and in truth.

The letters, of which extracts follow, were written during the religious engagement at Leicester, mentioned in the preceding memorandum. It may be interesting to the reader to be reminded, that this engagement was entered into at a period of extraordinary

excitement from various causes. Trade was then at its lowest depression, and great were the privations and sufferings of the working classes, whilst socialism and political disaffection were rife in that and some other districts.

To her Sons.

Leicester, *Tenth Month 26th*, 1841.

My dear M. and S.,

Perhaps you would like, as well, a letter singly, but when I take my pen to address you, I do not like to make a separation, so closely are you both interwoven with our affections. We think often of you, our precious children, and earnestly desire your comfort and best welfare. To find you are going on well, and endeavouring to do what you know to be right, is the rejoicing of our hearts. I trust this is the case; and that you will be preserved, on every hand, from the temptations, which, in one way or other, may daily present themselves. . . . . We have had three meetings; one of them at Ridlington Park. Of that sweet spot, where I have spent so many happy days in my youth, I must tell you more when we meet. The meeting was held in the spacious kitchen, which was nicely fitted up for the purpose, and well filled with the neighbouring peasantry, who were most quiet and serious. On First-day evening, a very large meeting of the working people, in one part of Leicester; a very interesting company, who behaved remarkably well. Last evening, another, in a different part of the town; this was held in a commodious schoolroom. I hope you will think of us, and of the important object for which we left our home. May we be favoured to see our way, step by step, and, in the right time, be permitted to return to you.

We unite in much love to you both. . . . . .

M. F.

To S. F.

Leicester, *29th of Tenth Month*, 1841.

. . . . . I know thou wilt rejoice to get a good report of me, and I trust, the same comfort may be mine, to-morrow, in regard to

thy journey and arrival at home. . . . . Our friend A. B. and myself reached her comfortable fire-side, about five o'clock. I had a tranquil, agreeable evening, and I was favoured to wake, this morning, with a feeling of precious quiet; which, though it may be a prelude to further exercise and proving of faith, I cannot be too thankful for. It is cause of humble gratitude, whenever we are permitted, in any measure, to realize the "Peace be still;" and to have something of this, when deprived of thy company and help, is a condescension to my weak faith, which marks the compassionate kindness of our great and good Master. I trust thou art alike sustained in thy allotment, and that thou wilt feel comfort in having stayed as long as thou didst . . . . . .

I desire the remembrance of my friends for good, in a work which I feel to be a very solemn one. To meet, even in small numbers, such a population as this, their circumstances in various respects considered, is an engagement, in which there is, indeed, great need of a watchful spirit; and that the eye be singly and closely directed to Him, who only can give the portion of food adapted to the peculiar condition of those for whom it is designed. That weak and feeble women should be made use of as the instruments, can only be explained by the consideration, that the Lord's ways are not as our ways, and it is perhaps possible, the *feelings* may sometimes be reached through a medium, from which the *understanding* might not be inclined to receive anything. . . . . I have been much pleased, this morning, with three original letters from our dear boys, all different, but all interesting to me. . . . . .

M. F.

To S. F.

Leicester, *Eleventh Month 7th*, 1841.

. . . . . I am sorry to have caused thee a moment's uneasiness, by the omission, in my last, of any allusion to health. I am remarkably well, for which I desire to be very thankful, and abundantly cared for by our dear friends, whose many kindnesses we cannot adequately acknowledge our grateful sense of, but which will, I trust, long be felt. My letter, written on Sixth-day, will have prepared thee to hear, that, delightful as the prospect of joining

thee and my precious boys appears, we do not now expect to be with you to-morrow.

After a solemn meeting, this morning, it seemed safest to confer a little with our friends, in reference to the winding up of the engagement among the poor, and to tell them that I had some apprehension, it might be best to look to a meeting, to-morrow evening, with those of the district yet uninvited, viz, the southern end of the town, and possibly, to a concluding meeting, on Third-day evening, which might be a little more general in its character, embracing some of the smaller trades-people. My mind was brought under very close exercise before this was mentioned, and strong desires are still felt, that the service may not be spun out till weakness is the effect, but that the end may be owned of the Lord by his blessing. Our friends were most kind and willing to help, and encouraged us not to depart without fulfilling what might seem to be called for, and I greatly desire we may be preserved from bringing a burden on them, beyond that which it may be the part of the church to bear. And now, my dear, mayst thou and our other friends be with us in spirit, and pray for us, for we feel very weak. I said nothing about the Union House, and hope that may pass away; my mind is exceedingly averse to going into these places, where the church establishment has erected her partition wall, and set up her priestly domination. . . . . .

M. S. F.

To S. F.

Leicester, *Eleventh Month 8th*, 1841.

. . . . . We have quite a resting day with our kind friends, before going to the meeting this evening. I am thankful for somewhat of a trustful feeling, in reference to it, formidable as all these services appear to my poor mind. I hope I do earnestly desire to be preserved from lengthening out, beyond the right appointment. The meeting, last evening, was a large one, and, as others have been, very quiet; many stood,—yet stood as still as if they were accustomed to our mode of worship. The attendance was of the same class, I should think, as before, with very little exception; and though there was not so much liberty

as on some occasions, there was the renewed sense of the Lord's merciful kindness towards the children of men, not without some awful feeling of the condition of such as refuse to listen to the call, and believe not the gospel.

9th. We have been this morning to the prison for the Borough. It was exceedingly formidable, and no small trial to me in prospect, but has been satisfactorily accomplished. The governor gave us a kind and cordial reception, and made the way as easy as possible. He took us first through the several courts and yards, to see the prisoners and their accommodation,—their school, their dining-room and the cooking of their dinner ; also, the tread-mill with its occupants,—altogether a sad sight ! though the management seems excellent ; and, lastly, summoned all from both the men's and women's side (the latter under the guardianship of their matron) into the chapel, where we had a meeting with them, in which they were very orderly and quiet : we did not detain them long. I trust we shall leave with peaceful minds, if the meeting to-night get well over. Friends expect to have the place quite full, the notice not being confined to any district. Oh ! for a spirit of watchfulness unto prayer. The meeting, last evening, though not very large, was, I think, as comfortable and relieving as any we have yet had,—remarkably still. There were two other meetings held at the same time in the town, one at the Mechanics' Institute and one by the Chartists. With all these excitements, it is the more comforting, that there should be so many disposed to come to a Friends' meeting, and sit so quietly there, and proves, I think, that there are some who desire to seek after better things, amidst their trials. . . . . .

M. S. F.

Eleventh Month 30th, Third-day. It is an unspeakable favour, to be permitted to know any thing of that true quiet, which the enemy is not permitted to disturb by his many subtle temptations and insinuations ; especially after being engaged in public services, which have left body and mind somewhat exhausted. Under such circumstances, there is, perhaps, more danger of our letting in the reasonings he is so expert in preparing. I hope my heart is at times humbled in thankfulness, for the

sense of quiet and rest granted since my return from Leicester. The desire is now renewedly felt, that it may be such a rest as becomes a christian,—one who is sensible that he has still to maintain the warfare, and that in times of repose, he must, as is somewhere beautifully expressed,

> "Sleep, as on the battle-field,
> Girded,—grasping sword and shield."

Oh! for a life of close inward communion with the Lord, through faith and prayer,—an hourly application in secret to Him, who only can preserve us, and enable us to keep his holy and righteous precepts.

CHAPTER XVII.

1841, 1842. Memoranda—Letters—Remarks on the ministry—Indisposition—Decease of a friend—Hitchin—Stay at Gravesend.

Twelfth Month 9th, Fifth-day. Our Monthly Meeting; not out, having been an invalid for the last ten days. May this time of seclusion be spent in such a manner, as to leave some profitable trace behind; but alas! how apt we are to be engaged with trifles, and to let the concerns and the infirmities of the poor, perishing body have too much of our attention.

One of our young friends has been spending a few days with us, and we have enjoyed her company. My heart often yearns over our dear young people, in the desire they might know an establishment in the truth,—be brought under the yoke of Christ, taught and led by his Spirit, and be made to know experimentally what it is to follow Him in the regeneration. The enemy has many snares for such; not a few, in the present day, of the most specious kind. Yet, there is but one way, and that the good old way, to the heavenly kingdom. "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life." Man stumbles at this, and would fain enlarge both the entrance and the path. How many of those amongst us who were preciously visited of the Lord, and who would, I fully believe, if they had remained patiently under his hand, have been prepared for greater usefulness, have turned aside into some other track, and not only caused, but suffered loss. The prospect is discouraging, if we look around for those who are to take up the work and burden of the day, when the present burden-bearers shall be removed; but in seasons of depression, when such thoughts present themselves, my mind is often comforted in the belief, that the Lord will not forsake his own work, but that He will yet raise up and qualify those who shall maintain the testimony He hath given us to bear; and who, by submitting to the humbling work of the Spirit, shall be made living witnesses of his power. "One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts."

The aspect of the religious world is gloomy, at least it appears so to me, wheresoever we turn our attention. Professing christians violent in the defence of their several creeds, but slack in their general practice,—more anxious to maintain the pre-eminence of this or that particular sect, than to adorn the doctrines they profess, by a consistent, humble and self-denying walk amongst men. Popery, every where lifting its head,—the Established Church of this country receding fast towards its multiplied corruptions, from which she was never thoroughly emancipated, having retained as much of the old leaven as may yet work a more complete assimilation, and drive her to make common cause with the Romish priesthood, rather than quit her hold on the temporal honours and emoluments, she has long enjoyed. All this looks discouraging. Surely, there is as much reason now as ever for those who are protestants indeed, to look well to their standing; especially for the members of our Society to see that they have their loins girded about, and their lights burning. Whatever may be the overturnings that may yet be permitted in the visible church,—whatever the power given for a time, in the unsearchable counsels of the divine will, to the beast and to those who have received his mark and the number of his name, I do believe the Lord has a work for us as a people, and that in doing or in suffering, according to his holy will, the language to us is, "Be thou faithful unto death." Give it unto us, O Lord! we beseech Thee, and to our precious children, so to appreciate the value of those truths we have been taught, as that we may "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering," in every day of trial; and may know for ourselves the truth of that blessed declaration, "They that know thy name will put their trust in Thee; for Thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek Thee." Amen.

12*th*, *First-day*. At home. I felt it a privation to be prevented from assembling with my friends, but endeavoured after some retirement of mind before the Lord. How difficult to keep the thoughts staid! yet, amidst much coldness and wandering, felt that it is good to seek unto Him, who in his pity regards the low estate of his children, and helps them at times with a little help from his sanctuary. Under some fresh sense of this, I

desire to adopt the words of the psalmist, and say, "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart."

16*th*, *Fifth-day*. What can be more important, or interesting to the feelings of a parent, than the right training of children! Very momentous this subject feels to us. The sense of my own weakness is often discouraging; may I seek earnestly for help where alone it is to be found, remembering the Scripture exhortation to those who lack wisdom, James i. 5. We live in an age of theories; many plans are proposed for the help of those to whom the great business of education is entrusted, and all valuable counsel should be received with the consideration it demands; but I often think the main thing is, a steady, consistent endeavour to exhibit, in the view of the young, the *practical* illustration of the principles and precepts of christianity.

My mind is often affected, in the remembrance of the pious example of my dear parents; how their daily conduct gave evidence, not only of their faith in, but of their desire to obey, the gospel. In the every-day concerns of life,—in the management of business,—in the regulation of their family,—in the social relations, as well as in the higher duties of religion, seeking, in humility and watchfulness, to live according to the commands of Him who said, "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." They held up the christian standard by the most powerful of all preaching; and now, when years have elapsed, and many of their oral instructions are, as to the letter of them, passed away, the mind loves to recur to their actions, and oftentimes to say within itself, "What would my dear father or mother have done, in this or that case?" The golden rule, as it is called,—to do unto others as we would that they should do unto us, and the command to love our neighbour as ourselves, was often alluded to by my father, when his own interest and that of another came into anything like competition; and though my mother would sometimes pleasantly remind him, when she thought his disinterestedness was in some danger of exceeding the just limit, that the Scripture did not say, we should love our neighbour *better* than ourselves, yet she was like a faithful help-meet, ever ready to sustain and forward the christian

benevolence of his feeling heart, and, by judicious economy in her own department, to enlarge his means of usefulness to others.

I write not this to praise *them*, but as a testimony to the grace that shone forth in their example. "The path of the just is as the shining light;" and when these have been permitted, through infinite mercy, to attain to the perfect day, and are for ever at rest with their Saviour, whom they loved and sought to follow here below, the track by which they trod through this valley of tears, is still bright, and the contemplation of it is animating and instructive. Oh! that I may be stimulated to press after a greater conformity to the will of my Heavenly Father, and be enabled to walk according to the precepts of our holy Redeemer, that so those who look up to us for example and instruction, may not be stumbled by inconsistencies observed in me. But "the flesh is weak," and there is great need to recur daily and hourly to the admonition given by Jesus to his disciples, and, through them, to all his followers, to the end of time, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation."

23*rd*. The interment of the remains of our young friend W. H. takes place this morning; a promising plant, early removed, but, through the tender mercy of the Lord, prepared, there is much reason to believe, for a better state of being. He departed very sweetly, in the hope of a christian, after a lingering illness.

To E. S—H.

Tottenham, *First Month 4th*, 1842.

My beloved Friend,

Thy note, yesterday morning, was accepted as a welcome proof of thy sisterly feeling towards me; and its various contents, though of what we are accustomed to call the mournful kind, very interesting. We cannot wonder that those, who have long been endeavouring to serve the Lord in the militant church, should be taken, one after another, in the course of his providence, to their everlasting rest. Such events are calculated to remind us, how one generation passes away after another, and how soon the solemn close of all things here, must be experienced by ourselves. Oh! that we may be found, through the riches of

redeeming mercy and the sanctifying power of the Spirit, ready for the awful summons! . . . . . I should love to see you; but that is not likely to be the case, at present. My mind visits you in near sympathy, but with the comforting persuasion, that you are of that blessed number, of whom it may be said, both in seasons of suffering and rejoicing, "Happy is that people whose God is the Lord," because these do know, and are permitted, in their times of greatest need, to experience, that they have a strong refuge. It may not be an abounding sense of his love and mercy towards them, but a quiet and confiding trust, that He is graciously disposed to be their strength and their stay; and that through his tender mercy in Christ, their Saviour, they have part in his precious and unchangeable promise, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Oh, what a mercy is this!

I have been very poorly for some weeks, and though now much better, I am sensible of a degree of debility, which reminds me very often of the increasing failure of the outward tabernacle. Oh! that there may be the diligent application of soul to Him, who is able to carry on his own work, and to prepare the better part for an eternal habitation in the heavens. I did not mean by this, to convey to thy mind the idea, that my illness has been severe, but to make thee a partaker in the solemn feelings that are often present with me. . . . . .

Thy very affectionate,
M. S. Fox.

To E. K.

Tottenham, *First Month 4th*, 1842.

My beloved Friend,

It has been far from agreeable to my feelings, that my pen should not have told thee long since, how much my thoughts are turned towards thee, in the exercise of sympathy and tender interest. Since thy last kind note, which informed me of the increasing weakness of thy dear sister, I have been often with you in mind, and now, through our friend M. P., I learn the diminution of strength still proceeds gradually. This, I know well, cannot be, without producing in thy heart, the sense of poignant sorrow, because, however the soul may be sustained by

the secret assurance that all these events are in the ordering of infinite wisdom and perfect love, nature must be acutely sensible of the severing stroke; and I believe rightly so, for whilst it is the privilege of the christian believer, to realize the strength and the efficacy of those supports and consolations which are offered in the gospel, and to know something of the value of that hope which is described by the apostle, "as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast," yet it is, I fully believe, consistent with the will of our Heavenly Father, that we should feel our afflictions to be such. In these seasons, we are brought more closely to see and feel the reality of those things we do most surely believe, and in his tender compassion towards us, He is pleased to grant us, at times, such a present sense of his power and sufficiency, as does effectually restrain the tide of natural feeling, and prevent us from being overwhelmed by it. That expression, "an anchor of the soul," appears to me, to have in it a peculiar force and richness, because we know what an anchor is to a vessel, in time of need; and what a joy it is to the mariner to find, when he has cast his anchor on such an occasion, that it will *hold*. Well, my beloved friend, this, I trust, is and will be thy experience, however the winds and waves may be felt; and that thou wilt be enabled still to bless the name of the Lord. Thy account of dear M. is indeed sweetly consoling. May she be comforted in all her sickness, and gently carried through by the tender Shepherd of the sheep, who forsakes not his people in the hour of their need; and mayst thou, dear E., be permitted to partake in the renewed evidence, that "the Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him," that "He also will hear their cry and will save them." . . . . . .

Accept very much love, from thy affectionate,

M. S. Fox.

First Month 13*th*, *Fifth-day*. The day after the last date, my dear husband left us for Wellington. During their father's absence, attention to our dear boys has closely occupied my time. I wish to make their vacations pleasant, and to afford them all the reasonable gratifications I suitably can. Oh! that the Lord may prepare their hearts to wait for the teachings of

Christ their Saviour. May He, who only can bless the seed sown, be pleased to extend the tendering, contriting influences of his Holy Spirit, like the dew upon the ground, and cause the tender blade to put forth, and, in his great mercy, so watch over and protect it from every beast of the field and fowl of the air, as that it may, in due time, produce the ear filled with fruit, to his praise; ripening under the varied dispensations of his providence, until it be meet for the heavenly garner.

It is no small favour to have my dear husband once more restored to us in safety. The day he travelled to W., a very awful accident occurred on the Great Western Railway, whereby eight lives were lost on the spot. The train by which my husband went, was a few hours later; through his consideration for me, I was apprized of his safety, before I heard of the accident itself. How many causes for thankfulness! To-day, I am absent from our week-day meeting, where the rest of the family are gone. May I be permitted to know something of that precious quiet, which does, at times, refresh the spirits of those who meet together for the solemn purpose of worship! I have been at meeting twice, since the year came in, after being deprived by illness, of this comfort, and desire to be thankful for the ability to do this, for it is a privilege greatly to be prized.

The consideration of what has passed during the course of the year that has expired, and the solemn uncertainty of the future, have been brought home to our feelings, I trust, with some desire to know the day's work to be going forward with the day, through submission to the will of our Heavenly Father. May this true submission be more fully wrought by the working of his own Spirit, and our faith increased in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world:—that so every baptism may be endured with patience, and all trials be sanctified and made to work together for good.

21*st*, *Sixth-day*. How much there is of what we call conflict, in the life of a christian! How many occasions, when either from outward afflictions or inward temptations, coming upon us like an irresistible flood or a sudden hurricane, we are driven as to our wits' end, and brought afresh to feel, that we have no refuge but in the tender mercy of that Redeemer,

whom winds and waves obey. It was when the disciples cried out, "Lord, save us,—we perish," that He graciously rebuked the tempest; and, blessed be his name! from that day to the present, his holy ear receives the prayer of faith. Oh! that we did more constantly, more fervently, and more believingly apply to Him; remembering his encouraging invitation and promise, "Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." The last few days have been a season of close proving with us;—our tears have been poured out before the Lord.* May I be clothed with a humble, watchful and prayerful spirit, seeking continually to have my faith and hope renewed. The Lord chastens his children for their profit, and to the end that they "might be partakers of his holiness." Those who have been, at times, engaged in declaring these truths to others, and in setting forth the efficacy of living faith in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, must expect to have this faith put to the test, again and again, in their own experience;—must expect seasons in which they shall be called upon, practically to show forth the reality of those supports and consolations, on which they may have been led to enlarge, in their public ministrations to others. It is not one lesson, nor many lessons, that will suffice. Self requires to be continually mortified and brought low; and this is not to be done in our way, but in the Lord's way. Yet nature shrinks under the refining hand, and has no strength of her own, to meet any threatened ill or suffering. Oh! for a more powerful faith, to adopt, with firmness yet with deep humility, the words of David, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

24*th*, *Second-day*. At our Spring Quarterly Meeting at Poole, in the year 1823, my mouth was first opened in public ministry, with these words only,—"How great is thy goodness, which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee, for them that hope in thy mercy." The sweet calm that overspread my spirit, after the utterance of them, no language can describe. Such a tendering sense of the Lord's mercy, as effectually cast

* This memorandum, as well as some of those which follow, refers to symptoms of a serious complaint, which, for a time, produced painful apprehensiveness, in the minds of herself and friends.

out, for the time, all reasoning, continued with me through the day, and for some time afterwards. Years of discipline and baptisms of spirit, known to no one but myself, preceded this surrender. To my natural feelings, such a thing seemed impossible; but at length, after enduring for a long season and in different ways, the chastening rod, the Lord was pleased to show me, that which is impossible with men, is possible with God, and to give me such a sense of his love and such a portion of sweet peace, in the performance of his will, as I have never dared to deny, in the many seasons of proving and temptation that have since been experienced.

For some time after this, the offerings of a like kind were not frequent, and usually a text of Scripture only; but as the desire was kept alive, to be subject to the Lord's forming hand, openings were gradually enlarged, and in the year 1825, Friends of Poole and Southampton Monthly Meeting, thought it right to express their unity, by a record on their books. It was not my lot to have much human help at that period,—not many near, whose station in the church was likely to lead them to extend either counsel or encouragement; and such was the difficulty I felt, in speaking any thing of my own exercises, that even my affectionate sister, whose care for me was almost maternal, was but little acquainted with them. Some of this excessive delicacy (as we love to call it) might be, I believe, the result of pride, and of secret unwillingness to be as a fool, for Christ's sake; and it probably did, at times, deprive me of the judicious advice of those more experienced; but I am ready to think it is, on the whole, safer than seeking after much communication. The Lord is very tender and compassionate towards those whom He is pleased to lead in the path of gospel obedience. If the eye be directed to Him, in the watchful desire to know his will, He will not fail to apply both his correcting and supporting hand; nevertheless, I have ever esteemed it an especial privilege, to those who are called to speak in public, to have the care and counsel of their friends extended to them. Before this trial of my own faith, I was permitted to see the danger of those who exercise a gift in the ministry, looking too much for the expression of unity or commendation; and now the Lord was pleased to show me,

that such a course would be eminently unsafe for me. Throughout the whole course of my small experience, I have ever found it needful to be very guarded in this matter. The unity of those who have judgment, and whose office it peculiarly is to extend help to the poor ministers, in whatever way they may see it to be needful, has always been very precious to me; and there have been seasons, when the judicious, well-timed expression of it, has been indescribably helpful to a mind peculiarly open to the assaults of unbelief, and, at seasons, sorely buffeted of Satan. So that I cannot help earnestly desiring our dear friends in the station of elder, may be found discharging the important trust committed to them, whether in the way of encouragement or of counsel. The feeling may seem to themselves so small, as to be scarcely worth the expression, but "a word spoken in due season, how good is it!" Their burden and exercise is of vast importance to the vital welfare of the body.

The ministry, as it is recognized amongst Friends, is so unshackled, — such liberty is given for the exercise of the gift bestowed, so extensive the field that lies open to the gospel labourer, both within and without our own pale, and so varied the services to which such may be called, that it is peculiarly important, all the means that can be employed for the help and instruction of these, should be brought into exercise. Many young ministers (perhaps older ones also) do, I believe, suffer greatly, for want of timely counsel. It is a subject I desire to touch with delicacy, and with a feeling sense of my own liability to err; but surely, it is one of great moment to the well-being of our Society, seeing that however excellent the gift or evident the anointing, human instruments are weak and fallible,—have the treasure in earthen vessels, and are constantly liable to receive a bias, from a variety of causes and circumstances. The constitution of our Society appears to me excellent, I had almost said perfect, in this matter. May it be acted upon and carried out with faithfulness,—in simplicity and godly sincerity; and then, fruit will be found to the praise and glory of Him, who is the Head over all things to his church. It is an awful thing, for ministers to set their own feelings above the care of their friends, or the judgment of the church. These should remember, that

the various members of the body have not all the same office; but that the Lord hath tempered them together, as it hath pleased Him, so that "the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee, nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you." They are for the help and comfort one of another, that the functions of the whole may be healthfully performed; and whilst we must not, in any degree, diminish the importance of ministers looking, with a single eye, to their heavenly Leader and Guide, remembering the declaration of our Lord, "One is your master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren," they must bear in mind, that whilst to one is committed the gift of prophecy or preaching, to another is given the discerning of spirits, and that it is the Lord's will, that his people should be subject one to another, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

I sometimes think, the ground of the different and even opposite errors, into which some have fallen, who have occupied conspicuous stations amongst us, both in this country and in America, whereby so much suffering has been brought upon the Society, may have been a departure from true humility. But where is humility to be looked for, if not amongst those who are the professed followers of Jesus, and who believe themselves called to a ministry, which is, pre-eminently, the work of the Spirit! May this blessed fruit increase, and abound amongst us!

26*th*, *Fourth-day*. The hymn beginning with the words "Begone unbelief," was brought to mind this morning, after a season of almost inexpressible mental suffering. Read it afterwards with some comfort; but the Lord only can keep me in quiet dependence upon Him. I think I do desire to be brought into true resignation to whatever He may lay upon me; but nature shrinks from suffering.

Second Month 4th, Sixth-day. My mind has been plunged, for some days past, into a state of conflict not to be expressed,—I had almost said a baptism unto death. There have been some precious seasons, in which access has been granted to the divine footstool, and something like the "Peace be still," has been mercifully spoken to my tossed soul; yet again and again, have the floods of discouragement been poured forth, and I have been ready to sink as in deep waters. Last evening, some relief was

permitted, after freely opening to my beloved husband the state of my mind. I was led to see that this is the work of the enemy, who takes advantage of my weakness, now increased by bodily indisposition and unavoidable solicitude, to drive me from the anchor that is both sure and stedfast. Oh, how cruel is this adversary of our soul's peace! How he loves to magnify the doubts and the fears! and when he has succeeded in presenting to the mind a very exaggerated picture of such trials as may appear to threaten us, he does not fail to augment the poignancy of suffering, by the insinuation that if we had true faith in God, —if our religion were indeed a reality, it would not be thus with us. Oh! that with a fresh view of some of his devices, strength to resist, may also be granted by Him, whose power is over all. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you," are Scripture words that were brought to my remembrance this morning, and with them, some desire to turn a deaf ear to his suggestions, and to seek in simplicity and faith, for ability to mind my present business, and leave the future with that compassionate Heavenly Father, who knows best what is best for us, and who can help us in every time of need.

12*th*, *Seventh-day*. I desire thankfully to acknowledge the degree of quiet, may I not say, confiding trust, that has been granted since the last memorandum was made,—some fresh sense of the love and mercy of my Heavenly Father, and belief that He will lay upon me nothing which He will not give strength to bear, if humbly sought unto. Oh! how my soul longs for that entire submission which can leave all in his hand, trusting Him not only as to the infinite wisdom, but the perfect love in which He deals with his poor, unworthy children; apportioning the discipline just as He sees it to be needful, regulating the furnace, and enabling those who give themselves up unto Him, to glorify Him in all the dispensations of his rod. So, be pleased, O Lord! to work in my soul, through the power of the Holy Spirit; and give me faith and patience, for thy dear Son's sake.

15*th*, *Third-day*. We went, yesterday, to see Dr. ——, not knowing what would be his opinion as to the progress of the case on which we had previously consulted him. We felt it to

be a critical occasion, and I believe our souls were bowed before the Lord, in the desire that He would be pleased to help us according to our need. The opinion proved more relieving than we had dared to hope; oh, what rich mercy to poor feeble creatures! How does the Lord compassionate his children, and spare them when his chastening rod is lifted up! may we gratefully thank Him for the present degree of relief, and seek to lie low under his hand; for in his good keeping, is our only safety.

Went afterwards to the "Morning Meeting," where our dear friends J. J. Gurney and E. J. Fry, gave some account of their late journey into Holland, Prussia and Denmark. Very interesting and encouraging was their testimony to the continued goodness of Him, who, when He putteth forth his own, goeth before them; and though He may lead them into paths they have not known, and services varied and peculiar, does not fail to guide, succour and qualify, those whom He calls to his work and service, as their eye is steadily directed unto Him.

Stand by the cross,—is an intimation which at different times,—in days past and more recently, seems to have been secretly sounded as a watch-word in my spiritual ear. Does it not convey instruction of a twofold character, as well as encouragement? Where can a trembling soul, humbled under a sense of its own vileness, multiplied transgressions and utter helplessness, find refuge from the assaults of Satan, but in that great sacrifice once made upon the cross for the sins of all mankind?—where, but in such a Saviour, look for pardon, reconciliation and acceptance? Therefore, by his cross, I would humbly desire ever to be found; looking with an eye of faith to Him, as the "Lamb of God,"—"who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification;" and would say, with a christian poet, in times of temptation and trial,

"Bowed down beneath a load of sin,
By Satan sorely prest;
By war without, and fears within,
I come to Thee, for rest.
Be Thou my shield and hiding place!
That, sheltered near thy side,
I may my fierce accuser face,
And tell him,—*Thou hast died.*

But there is another sense in which it is important to keep in mind the necessity of standing constantly by the cross. They, to whom much hath been forgiven, should love much, and should be found, not only in the posture of humble suppliants crying for mercy where alone they can hope to receive it, but also as those who patiently wait the bidding of their Lord. They should be willing to take up the daily cross in such way as He may see meet to appoint or permit; not choosing their own ways, much less their own services, but desiring that their wills may be conformed to his will, and that they may be strengthened to do or to suffer as He sees best for them. Oh! it is indeed a blessed thing to stand by the cross; but how prone is nature to shrink from this, acknowledging the duty and the reasonableness of it in general, but flinching and pleading when it is pressed home. Only the grace that has been displayed for our deliverance, can bind us to this place of true safety. So keep us, O Lord! we pray Thee, for we cannot keep ourselves; and let us not wander from thy commandments.

28*th, Second-day.* Went, yesterday, to the afternoon meeting at Newington, with our dear friends B. Seebohm and J. Fryer, they having completed their visit to this Monthly Meeting. It has been a comfort and privilege to us, to have had them most of the time as our guests; and we desire, very thankfully, to accept the words of comfort and encouragement afresh ministered. A very precious season on Seventh-day morning, when our spirits were tendered before the Lord. B. S. began his address, with the words put by John Bunyan into the mouth of one of his pilgrims, when they were crossing the river, "Be of good cheer, my brother, I feel the bottom, and it is good;" and though my mind seemed scarcely able to appropriate the whole of his encouraging communication, yet for this fresh proof of heavenly love and mercy, extended to us in a season of peculiar proving, we desire to be reverently thankful, and to be enabled to keep hold of it, remembering from whom all good cometh.

Third Month 9th, Sixth-day. Company, yesterday, to dinner and tea. How difficult to pass through a social day, even with those whose conduct is in many respects exemplary, without saying some things that cause a painful reflection afterwards. I do

not know that I feel condemnation on this occasion, but the conversation, during a part of the evening, was not quite satisfactory; a feeling in which, I believe, some of my dear friends present partook.

The distresses of the labouring poor in the manufacturing districts, particularly in the North, are deeply affecting, and seem to call loudly for effective aid. Perhaps the magnitude of the evil, and the difficulty of meeting it fully by pecuniary contributions, without some great legislative changes, is in danger of making the public and all of us individually, too inattentive to the subject. But if the legislature does not rouse itself, to the cry of the thousands who need both food and labour, can we do nothing in our individual capacity?

To — —

Tottenham, *Third Month 9th*, 1842.

My dear Friend,

.....The situation of your family is indeed peculiar, and claims the tender feeling of your friends. There is an excitement, in some sort, inseparable from such seasons of pressure, to which sensitive minds are more especially liable, that does not a little increase the exhaustion of the body, though, for the time, it may produce artificial strength and energy; and this makes it peculiarly important to seek after a state of quiet confidence, not at our command, but mercifully given sometimes in secret, to the humbled, waiting soul. This precious experience, I much desire for thee and for myself: without it, the mind is subject, in circumstances of anxiety and affliction, to a fluctuation between hope and fear, which is exceedingly wearing. All this, I well know, it is easier to say or to think, than to attain to, but we know there is One who stands graciously disposed to help our infirmities, and whose succour you have heretofore experienced to be above all human aid. I observe what thou sayst of the interesting state of thy brother's mind. It is a great favour, to be permitted to see any evidences of a good work going on in those who are growing up into manhood; but let us ever bear in mind, my dear friend, that this work of the Holy Spirit on the soul, is one of peculiar delicacy, and I believe, it is highly dangerous, for those who are

in any degree the subjects of it, to be drawn out too early into much expression about it, and that it has a tendency to promote that superficial sort of religion, which is so prevalent in the present day. It is not rapid growth, but substantial, sober experience, that is to form the steady and consistent christian ; and this is a gradual, and, where it proceeds most surely, oftentimes a secret process. Not that I would undervalue the comforts and advantages of christian intercourse, between those tenderly interested for each other's best welfare, but I believe, in early life, a guard is sometimes salutary, even here.

Thou desirest me to tell thee what I think of dear E. J. F.'s dining at the Mansion House. I can only say, that it has never appeared to me right, to judge her conduct in this matter, without hearing her reasons for so doing, as I fear some have done. There is no doubt she considered the subject before accepting the invitation, and apprehended it would be in the way of her duty to accept it,—and here, I think we may leave it. Her line of service has long been peculiar, and He, whom she desires to serve, has kept her in many perils and in many adversities too. I do not envy those, whose zeal, on this occasion, has outrun their charity, but would rather desire that we may all be kept in our individual spheres of duty, in true watchfulness and humility ; looking singly unto Him, who can preserve those who fear Him, in whatever circumstances He may be pleased to call them into. . . . . .

Thy truly attached and interested friend,

Maria S. Fox.

Third Month 12th, Second-day. Sad accounts from India, of the slaughter of a large portion of the English army, and the dreadful sufferings of the remainder in the province of Afghanistan; whilst in China, things seem no nearer to a settlement, and it is to be feared, much misery will be entailed upon many of our poor countrymen as well as upon the Chinese, by the continuance of that unrighteous war. Alas ! for England,—a land of christian profession and christian privileges, yet exhibiting a fearful amount of inconsistency and ingratitude in her legislative and national policy ;—starving her own industrious children by restrictive laws,

which limit the supply of food and cripple the commerce of the country; and sending forth armies to subdue foreign nations, with whose concerns we have no reasonable ground for interference, under the pretext of establishing those commercial relations, which would probably stand in need of no such protection, if left to take their natural course. Oh! when shall mankind understand the brotherhood of the nations,—when shall rulers (even christian rulers, as they would wish to be considered) learn to know, that the great interests of the human race are inseparably linked together, and never more effectually promoted than by a liberal and enlightened policy, which would diffuse the blessings of liberty, civilization and christianity, wheresoever the children of the great family are to be found!

To E. S—s.

Tottenham, *Third Month* 17*th*, 1842.

. . . . . With regard to my beloved H. R., it is not easy for me to give expression to the thoughts that are raised by the intelligence of her state. But whilst my mind is nearly affected in thinking of her bodily weakness and suffering, and still more in consideration of the solemn realities that press upon her sensitive mind, I am abundantly comforted in the belief, that He, whose compassions fail not, and who, in his tender mercy, hears the cry of his afflicted children and will save them, is near in this season of peculiar need. Whilst I write, Titus iii. 5, 6, rises unexpectedly to my remembrance, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy, He saved us;" with the context; all of which is fraught with consolation and encouragement for the drooping spirit, humbled under a sense of its own unworthiness to appear before a God of infinite purity. Through the grace of Christ our Saviour, the contrite in heart are yet made partakers of the "washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" and let us not forget his own declaration, "Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out;" so that the sinking spirit, that is oppressed by a view of its helplessness and need, is yet encouraged to take refuge in the arms of everlasting compassion, and to look in faith unto Him who

died for us, and rose again. I do not write this, my dear friend, as words of course, but I trust, in some solemn feeling of the awfulness of being brought to a near view of the separation from earthly things. That thy precious sister's faith should be closely proved at such a season, is no marvel, but this feeling of unfitness, this sense of poverty, humiliation and need, are, I cannot doubt, preparatory to a more full display of the power and love of that Redeemer, who is mighty to save. And whether such display be made in secret to the soul of the dear sufferer, when the mortal tabernacle is about to be put off, or the consolation be granted to her near connexions and friends, of receiving some evidence of it, I trust your spirits will be sustained in quiet and humble confidence, and enabled to leave all in his hand, who does not forsake his children in the day of their distress. . . . . .

Thy truly affectionate,

M. S. Fox.

Third Month 20*th*, *First-day*. During the last few days, we have heard of the decease of several friends. That of S. Grubb, who has been some time in a declining state, took place last Fourth-day. On Sixth-day, information was received of the departure from this world of L. Majolier of Congenies, and yesterday's post brought the tidings, of my long-loved friend H. Ransom having been removed by death. Thus, one after another is taken,—some in the evening, others in the meridian of life. Oh! that we may be quickened in our spiritual journey by these solemn warnings, and stimulated to press more earnestly and more steadily, "towards the mark for the prize."

It has been a time of much poverty and dryness with me for some time past; but on first waking this morning, I thought my mind was a little comforted and instructed in the remembrance of those words of our blessed Lord, "Ask, and it shall be given you, seek, and ye shall find, knock, and it shall be opened unto you;" and in remembering the encouragement He gave to his disciples by the inquiry, "What man is there of you, whom, if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone." I do believe that changes of dispensation are allotted, or at least permitted, to the christian traveller in his spiritual progress, and that seasons

of poverty and fasting are oftentimes profitable for him ; but may we not safely conclude, that we experience many trials of this kind, through our own neglect and supineness, rather than expressly from the divine hand. If, under a strong and feeling sense of our need, and of the power and goodness of our Heavenly Father, from whom all our supplies must come, we did more constantly and more believingly put up the secret petition, "Give us this day, our daily bread," we surely should, through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, (Himself, the bread of life) more frequently experience the fulfilment of his promise, and know for ourselves, that the cry for sustenance is not answered by a stone. But it better suits our indolence and apathy, to fold our hands and complain pathetically of our poverty, than to wrestle in spirit for the blessing, even until break of day ; as the good old patriarch wrestled with the angel, to whom he said, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me."

31*st*, *Fifth-day*. On Fourth-day (the 23rd) my dear husband and I went down to Hitchin. The interment of the remains of my late dear friend H. R., took place on the following day. The attendance was large ; many relatives and friends from a distance. I think it was a solemn meeting. In the evening, the overshadowing of our Heavenly Father's love was mercifully known, drawing us into stillness ; and a precious and uniting season was permitted, wherein, I trust, some of our spirits were contrited, and the word of encouragement was addressed, not only to the mourners, but to all present, to be wholly given up unto Him, who tenderly compassionates his people, and seeks to bless them and to do them good.

My husband returned to London, leaving me to spend a day or two longer amongst my old friends at Hitchin, a place very familiar in past years. A younger generation is sprung up in the place of many of those who were then well known, and children's children now appear on all sides. Oh ! that the blessing of Him whose mercy endureth forever, may rest upon these tender plants,—that in a day to come, through his almighty power and their submission to its operations, the church may experience the fulfilment of the promise, "Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children." On First-day, in the evening meeting, we were, I

think, permitted to feel a solemn covering on sitting down. Some renewed exercise was felt and expressed on behalf of different classes present. It was, I trust, a season of solemnity, though from some cause, not entirely one of liberty. Perhaps this was occasioned by the withholding of something communicated afterwards by a friend, which he acknowledged to have rested on his mind, from the commencement of the meeting.

Came home on Second-day, and on the following day, went with my S. F. and our three dear boys to the Quarterly Meeting in London,—always a formidable time, though felt to be a valuable privilege thus to assemble with our dear friends. I do not think it was a season of much refreshment. Towards the close, dear B. S., who had not before spoken, was engaged in supplication, to the comfort of many hearts, I fully believe. His petition for us seemed to me just what we wanted, and I trust we were thankful for such a renewed proof of divine regard. I desire to be preserved from all uncharitable judgments, and to cultivate in humility, a sense of our own weakness and liability to err; but it did seem to my feelings, that some of the preaching this morning was sadly limited and curtailed by the straitness of the human medium; so that it was more calculated to minister discouragement, than to gather us to the true and everlasting foundation,—Jesus Christ, the Rock of ages.

Fourth Month 2nd, Seventh-day. Went to Leighton-Buzzard, to spend a day or two with my aged relatives, J. and H. G. Found them remarkably bright, their age considered, J. G. having completed his ninetieth year; very feeble in body, but his mind clear and lively, and interested in what relates to the welfare of his fellow-creatures.

19*th*, *Third-day.* A long winter, naturally and spiritually. The spring is very cold, and vegetation, kept back by the north-east wind which has prevailed for some time, makes very little advance. Still, the buds are putting forth from the branches, and seem to be only waiting a change of temperature to clothe them with verdure and beauty. Nor do we doubt that in due time it will be so,—that the sun will break through the clouds, —a softer wind will blow,—the fertilizing showers will fall, and the operations of nature be carried forward by that great and good

Hand which works unseen, but nevertheless perfects the purposes of a gracious providence for the good of his creatures. May we not take a lesson from this, and learn to have more confidence, when the present aspect of things may be discouraging? If we had more faith, or were willing rightly to exercise the little we have, how it would enable us to look up, under all changes of season, to Him who only can help us; and with such a true dependence renewed from day to day, we should surely find the work of grace progressing secretly, whether in bright or in dark seasons. What a precious sense of the Lord's mercy to his people, was in the mind of the prophet, and what faith too, when he was enabled to say, "Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines, the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat, the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

To M. F—r.

Gravesend, *Fourth Month* 23*rd*, 1842.

. . . . . Our minds have been painfully affected by the sight of transports assembled here for the conveyance of troops for India, and by seeing the embarkation of some of these poor men. Five ships left on Fifth-day, several others yesterday. We were told the place had been crowded for some days previously, with the wives and mothers, who had come to accompany their relatives to the water's edge. When, alas! shall the eyes of professing christians be so opened to the real enormity of war, as to make it impossible for governments thus to sport away the lives of human beings? How thoroughly dissatisfactory the system is, through every stage of its progress, from the first entrapping of the ignorant and idle, (now perhaps, in many instances, of the *starving*) part of the population, to the consummation of the sanguinary business in the fields of China or Afghanistan, —and this in the nineteenth century of that blessed era, which was ushered in by the proclamation from heaven, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace; good-will towards men." Yet the promise stands sure. Happy are they who fully receive and cordially embrace it, and whose desire it is so to act up to the

spirit of their profession, as to be made in any degree instrumental to the spreading of the peaceable principles of the gospel. I did not intend to enlarge on this subject so much, but such reflections are naturally brought home to the mind, by seeing something of the actual preparation for that which we cannot but consider as decidedly anti-christian. . . . . .

Thy very affectionate friend,
M. S. Fox.

Fifth Month 6th, Sixth-day. Came home from Gravesend. We stayed there about two weeks, and found our health benefited by the change. The weather was fine, the air salubrious, and the country at this season beautiful. Many nice rambles I had with my dear J. in the shady lanes, where we could enjoy the sweet songs of the birds, or on the more elevated spots, from whence we could trace the windings of the noble river bearing on its bosom, vessels of various size and sort, bound on errands as various. One very painful part of our view, was the embarkation of troops for India. Heart-sickening it was to us, to see these poor men marched into the place and put on board the transports that were waiting to convey them;—torn from their friends and native country, to endure and inflict suffering, and with little prospect of return, most of the men who are thus sent, falling victims to the climate, if they do not fall by the sword. Alas, for Britain! exercising her sway over so large a portion of the earth, professing the religion of Christ, and outraging, in her misguided policy, the precepts of his pure and peaceable gospel When shall its benignant spirit be more universally diffused, and the inhabitants of the earth learn to love and succour, instead of envying and destroying one another?

We saw also a large vessel going out for Canada with emigrants, chiefly agricultural labourers. The captain invited us to go on board, and we were not a little interested in seeing these poor people, and the preparations that had been made for them on ship-board. The captain, an American, appeared to be a serious man, anxious to promote the best welfare of those who were under his care; he sails his vessel on total abstinence principles. We conversed with many of the emigrants, some

of whom had suffered much from want; several of them appeared thoughtful, sober people. We distributed some tracts amongst them; and felt for their situation in thus going from their native land, to seek in a distant part of the world that employment and those necessary means of subsistence, which they could not obtain in their own country. Would this be needful, if christianity were allowed to regulate the affairs of nations?

11*th*, *Fourth-day*. Great poverty, if I dare venture so to name it, has been my portion for a long season. Some desires are, I trust, felt at times, to be kept from falling into temptation, when faith is low and the enemy is busy. May the daily cry of my soul be unto the Lord, that He would lead, and keep, and teach me; and then if his good hand be underneath, it is of little consequence whether our state be one of suffering or rejoicing. But I often fear these protracted seasons of seeming desertion are brought upon me by unfaithfulness, unwatchfulness or unbelief.

CHAPTER XVIII.

1842, 1843. Yearly Meeting—Dover—Attendance of Monthly Meetings—Distress in manufacturing districts—Ipswich—Chelmsford—Brighton—Folkstone.

Fifth Month 31*st, Third-day.* Since the last date, I have had little opportunity for writing. On the 13th, our friends began to arrive, for the attendance of the Yearly Meeting, which commenced its sittings on the 16th, and closed on the 28th. It has been a season of instruction and of renewed favour, though not without its mixture. To ourselves, it has been marked by some provings of faith, as well as some fresh evidence of the Lord's condescending goodness to his poor, unworthy children: this ought to make us more humble and more confiding. The desire was felt in the commencement, under a sense of great weakness and unprofitableness, that we might be made subject to the Lord's will, and a prayer raised, for something of the mind that was in our dear Redeemer, who made Himself of no reputation; and now, when that which was as a mountain in prospect, is passed over, I desire to seek the quiet habitation, and to abide under the shadow of the Rock, to which the poor soul may flee and find safety, that so the enemy may not gain the advantage. He is not wanting in contrivances to rob us, if he can, of our true peace; but there is a retreat from his attacks, and, blessed be the Lord, the feeblest may take refuge there.

> "Rock of ages, cleft for me!
> Let me hide myself in thee."

We have enjoyed many social as well as religious privileges, during the last two weeks; have shared the company of dear and valued friends, with some of whom we have taken sweet counsel. Our dear cousin E. Seebohm, who had not been here for several years, was one of our guests, and her society a great comfort to me. We felt the preciousness of unity, and, under much sense of

our own weakness, esteemed it a privilege to do the little we could, in the responsible situation in which our friends saw it right to place us. The meetings for worship were, some of them, very large, and owned, I trust it may be said, with a degree of solemnity; though I cannot but think we often suffer loss, on these occasions, by the withholding of some of the Lord's deeply exercised and gifted servants, and the too great promptness of those of smaller experience, to express that which perhaps might have been safely dwelt upon in private. Much sympathy is nevertheless due to those who have feeling minds, and who, in the honest desire to be found faithful, do not always clearly see where they might safely refrain from communication. And when we consider, the freedom which is given to the ministry in our Society, the number collected, and the interest felt, with the infirmities and fallibility of the instruments, it is perhaps only surprising, that we have so little of what might be characterised as incongruous, or out of true gospel order.

Sixth Month 3rd, Sixth-day. Another distraint for tithes. The officer helped himself to silver spoons, and took some valued as family treasures, having been my dear mother's at her marriage, and my grandfather's previously. I felt, at first, tempted to think it a little hard, but those words quickly presented, "The fashion of this world passeth away," bringing with them the serious consideration of the importance of being prepared for a better inheritance. The first christians took joyfully the spoiling of their goods; and our early Friends were like-minded with them. It is a noble testimony that we have to bear against the corruption that has crept into the professing church, in this particular. May we and ours ever uphold it, with true integrity, and in the right spirit!

To a Son.

Tottenham, *Sixth Month 6th*, 1842.

My dear S.

I am desirous of writing thee a line, to express my good wishes for thee, on thy birth-day. It is an interesting day to us, and an important one to thyself. May the best blessings attend thee, my precious child! and may every year, as it passes, leave traces

of thy improvement, not only in those acquirements, which it is thy present duty to endeavour industriously to make, but in what is of still higher moment, thy gradual preparation for a better and more enduring life. Thou knowest well, my dear S., the present life will soon pass away, and the one important business of it, is to seek for that pardoning love and preserving grace, which are so mercifully offered us in the gospel. This must not be an occasional thing, but a constant, abiding concern, leading us to a watchful fear of doing anything that will be displeasing to our Heavenly Father. I long for thee to be kept daily and hourly in this holy fear, and that thou mayst experience it to be, as the Scripture expresses it, "a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death." . . . . .

Thy affectionate mother,

M. S. F.

Sixth Month 11*th*, *Seventh-day.* "Everywhere, and in all things, I am instructed," was the language of an apostle, and surely, if we are disposed to make a right use of circumstances as they arise, we may gather instruction from that which is in itself unpalatable and somewhat disturbing to us. I have been thinking, that if we would know this state of mind of which the apostle speaks, to be ours, we must seek after great humility. It is the meek who are to be guided in judgment; and I believe, we do often miss of the instruction we might gather, by giving way to our natural pride, self-love and self-seeking. Oh! the hatefulness of this unmortified self. Well, we may remember that whilst the apostle could testify, that in all things he was instructed, he was, on another occasion, constrained to cry out, "Oh, wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" and that in the power of living faith, he immediately supplies the answer, "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

18*th*, *Seventh-day.* Went down to Dover, by the steamer, taking M. and S. with us. A fine passage, though rather blowing.

21*st*, *Third-day.* Quarterly Meeting. A small company, amongst whom we sat, for a considerable time, in great poverty, and with little apprehension of having anything to communicate

to others. Yet, I think we may thankfully believe, it was a time of renewed visitation. We felt for the Friends of this small Quarterly Meeting, under various discouragements and some peculiar difficulties that now attend them; and though we were feeling very poor and low, were not sorry to have been cast amongst them at this time.

22*nd*, *Fourth-day.* Came back by the same steamer, several friends in company; a beautiful passage, and we were favoured to reach home in safety. To our dear children, this excursion has been a great treat, and their company added much to our enjoyment.

23*rd*, *Fifth-day.* At our week-day meeting. Felt it a comfort to sit down in this manner, for the solemn purpose of worship; and though my own mind is in a state of weakness and poverty not easy to be described, I was in degree refreshed by some precious sense of unity with those who are more fruitful.

28*th*, *Third-day.* Quarterly Meeting. It always feels to me a very serious thing to sit down together in these large gatherings; and a desire is often prevalent in my mind on these occasions, that we may be favoured to partake of true refreshment and receive instruction, from the one inexhaustible Fountain of good. It is generally a silent exercise on my part, but at this time, under a feeling of our need, I trust, renewed upon my spirit, a few sentences were offered in prayer; in which I felt peace and some encouragement, after a season of deep poverty and many doubts. Several friends were afterwards engaged in testimony; E. D. at some length, and, as it seemed to me, very appropriately to our condition as a body, beginning with those words of the psalmist, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will remember the name of the Lord our God." I trust it was a time of comfort and encouragement to many.

Seventh Month 2*nd*, *Seventh-day.* Went down yesterday to Colham Mill, to attend the interment of our aged friend, D. Moline, which took place at Uxbridge, to-day. It was attended by a considerable number of friends, and was a time of quiet solemnity. Several spoke a few words at the grave; in the meeting, E. D. ministered more largely. I was not without a feeling of interest for our dear friends of this meeting, who have had a time of re-

markable stripping, by the decease of several of their members within a short space; but it did not seem to open in any expression at meeting, and in an opportunity after dinner, though some little was spoken, my mind was not fully relieved. Had some perplexity for a time, as to whether it might not be right to stay over First-day, when another interment was to take place; but felt easy at last to return home.

6*th*, *Fourth-day.* Attended, yesterday, the Monthly Meeting of Devonshire House, and to-day, that of Gracechurch Street, held at Newington. Felt it to be helpful and profitable thus to visit, in simplicity, our dear friends, even when we feel too poor to apprehend there is much, if anything, that can be called a pointing of duty. Such intercourse between the members of neighbouring meetings, appears desirable, and tends to quicken the feelings of interest in each other's welfare.

10*th*, *First-day.* A quiet day with our dear family, and, I trust, a time of some refreshment in our more public gatherings.

13*th*, *Fourth-day.* My mind has been rather turned towards the Monthly Meeting at Uxbridge, since being there at the time of D. M.'s interment, and my dear husband, though himself unable to leave home, encouraged me to go. I was hesitating and full of fears up to the last, but at length, concluded upon going, and took dear S. with me. The meeting was small, and as to myself, the sense of poverty and weakness was very prevalent, but after a considerable time of silence, there seemed a little pointing to speak a few words on the subject of poverty,—the difference between that true lowliness of mind which has the blessing of our dear Redeemer upon it, and that poverty which springs from indolence, indifference or unfaithfulness. Matter opened more fully after this was expressed, and different classes were addressed, more especially the young, to some of whom it seemed to be a time of fresh visitation. May they yield their hearts under the Lord's hand, which would gradually prepare them to fill the places of those who are gone and going from the church below!

14*th*, *Fifth-day.* Came up from Drayton, in time for Westminster meeting, where my S. F. and the rest of our party met us. Here again it was the Monthly Meeting. For a long time after we sat down, my heart was cold, hard and lifeless as to the

sense of good, though not sorry to have the opportunity of being with our dear friends of this meeting on the present occasion. At length, my husband rose with the answer of our blessed Lord to Peter, when he inquired, "What shall this man do?"—"What is that to thee, follow thou me." When he sat down, some addition arose in my heart on the nature and value of true faith, without which it is impossible to please God, and the danger of distrust and doubting. Oh! that I were more constantly on the watch against this state of mind myself, that through a willingness to exercise the grain of faith, I might know its increase and the increase of strength also, to run in the way of the Lord's commandments. It is an awful and solemn thing to be made the medium of communication to others; and I do often earnestly desire, that whatever of instruction or warning is thus publicly declared, may be deeply and practically sealed upon my own mind by the effectual working of the Spirit.

We then took our dear boys to see the Chinese Museum, a collection brought from China by Nathan Dunn, an American merchant, many years resident in that country. It is a sort of epitome of that wonderful people, exhibiting their habits, costumes, manufactures and arts, their implements of labour, models of their houses, bridges, temples, &c., with a great variety of the natural productions of the country, all arranged with great taste and elegance. It is impossible to look with indifference upon the proofs here afforded, of the skill, ingenuity and refinement of a people, with whom this country is now carrying on a cruel and unrighteous war. How mournful the reflection, that nations professing the pure and holy religion of Jesus, should carry misery, blood-shed and destruction, where they ought to diffuse the benignant spirit and spread the benefits of christianity. After spending a considerable time here, we went through Kensington Gardens to Bayswater, and took tea with our friend, C. E. P The shady seats and noble walks of these fine old gardens, were quite refreshing, after looking at so many glittering objects in a heated room. This visit was a nice finish of the day, and we returned home pleased, but I trust not dissipated by the occupations of the afternoon. We think it important to share the gratifications of our dear children as far as we can.

19*th*, *Third-day.* I often think that those who have much of this world's gratification within their reach, have a strong claim on our sympathy; and I wish to bear in mind, that if similar temptations had been presented to me, I should probably have indulged far too much in them. Man is narrow and contracted in his judgment, and often censures those whose conduct is perhaps much more circumspect than his own would have been, in like circumstances, whilst his self-love leads him to take merit to himself, for restraints which, after all, have perhaps been chiefly imposed upon him by circumstances. But the great Searcher of hearts discerns all the hidden springs of action, and can estimate fully the temptations of all. May He make us more alive to our own short-comings, and give us the spirit of heavenly charity one towards another; not a spirit of indolence, that would make us indifferent to what concerns the best welfare one of another, but that genuine, christian love, which "seeketh not her own," and which, as it is fixed on Him who is the great and glorious object of it, will expand the heart in benevolent affections towards his great family, and enable us to sympathize, not only with the sorrows and sufferings, but with the temptations of those around us. Such a spirit would effectually drive out an envious or censorious disposition, which often lies at the bottom (though it may be unperceived by its possessor), where there is an inclination to judge those who occupy a higher sphere than ourselves.

22*nd*, *Sixth-day.* The distresses of the poor in the manufacturing districts of the country, continue to be very heavy, and are, I fear, constantly increasing. Their affecting situation, as it is reported to us by eye-witnesses, daily presses on our spirits. Oftentimes when I sit down with our dear children, to a plentiful, though simple meal, the thought of the hundreds and thousands of industrious labourers who cannot procure a sufficiency of food, rises vividly to my remembrance, together with the query, whether we are doing what we can (alas, how little that is!) for their help, or to testify our sympathy in their overwhelming sufferings. Surely, it is an exigence that demands a vigorous effort, and in which such an effort must not be withheld, though the utmost that charity can effect, is as nothing, in com-

parison of the mass of misery. Oh! that it may please the great Disposer of events, who has all hearts in his hand, to overrule the counsels of our legislators, that so all unrighteous and unequal laws may be done away, and the labouring poor, the sinews of the nation, be no longer paralyzed by the oppressive and iron grasp of power. I fear the anti-christian system of tithes has much to do in this matter, and that whilst the interests of a church establishment are so closely interwoven with those of the great landed proprietors, there is but little hope of redress for the people. But we know there is One, whose eye beholds the whole family of man, and who has said that for the oppression of the poor and the sighing of the needy, He will arise: may it please Him to enlighten the minds of men, and to spread amongst them the benignant spirit of his blessed gospel! Christianity is the only balm for the wounds that everywhere appear. How glorious would be its results, if suffered to pursue its peaceable and beneficent career! Man alas! even whilst professing to promulgate its pure and holy doctrines, obstructs its course by inventions and contrivances of his own,—pollutes the rich streams of this free and ever-flowing fountain, and drives, it is to be feared, many, who look more at the conduct of religious professors than at the principles of religion, into absolute infidelity. "Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord," is a language that naturally arises, when considering subjects such as these. Oh! that as a nation, we might be wise in time, and seek to put away the evil of our doings. But let us never forget, that nations are composed of individuals, and that the best reforms must be individual also;—each member of a community has his little world, in his own heart, and in the small circle over which his influence extends. Oh! that we may be concerned to be faithful here, and seek daily to have our ways directed and our actions regulated, by the unerring standard.

Eighth Month 8th, Second-day. "Morning Meeting." Our dear friends, J. and M. Yeardley, laid before it their prospect of visiting some parts of France, Belgium, Switzerland and Germany, which engaged the solid and weighty consideration of the meeting. Much unity was expressed with the concern, and also with that of our dear friend J. Pease, who is about to visit,

accompanied by his valued father, those professing with Friends in the South of France and in Germany. I thought it was a comforting, uniting time.

14*th*, *First-day.* In our meeting this morning, I think we were favoured with some precious solemnity, and were permitted to know something of united exercise, for the body's sake as well as for ourselves.

17*th*, *Fourth-day.* Went down to Ipswich by steamer, to accompany our sister S. F., and spend a day with our relatives there. Our brother's sweet situation at Rushmere looked very inviting, this fine summer. The verdure of the trees, with their grateful shade by day, and their fine appearance when lighted up by the harvest moon, now near the full, afforded us a tranquil pleasure. But lovely as is the face of nature, and much as I have always enjoyed rural scenes and sounds, the condition of my fellow-pilgrims upon this earth, of the multitudes that people its varied surface, and who are partaking of the sorrows and vicissitudes incident to our mortal state, and training for an eternity of happiness or misery, seems to me the most interesting and absorbing subject, next to that which ought to have the first place,—the inquiry whether the great work is progressing with ourselves individually. I sometimes fear lest my mind is wandering to the ends of the earth, and poring over miseries I have no power to relieve, and evils I cannot remedy, when it ought to be pursuing the home-work and heart-work of self-examination, humiliation and prayer. We may be too excursive, as well as too contracted, and both at the same time.

THE HARVEST MOON.

Thou risest in glory,—thou full harvest moon!
All ruddy and glowing with light;
Like a gem that would rival the splendour of noon,
On the cool, pallid brow of the night.

But as higher thou climbst up yon bright arch of blue,
More pure and resplendent thy beam,
Shedding beauty on all, yet still softening the view,
Of hamlet and woodland and stream.

How it lights up the fields where the wheat-ear is bending,
And the path of the reaper, whose toil is now ending :
How it floats o'er the breast of the far-spreading ocean,
A pathway of silvery and tremulous motion.

It shines on the heath, where the wild flower is folded,
On the column, to art's nicest symmetry moulded,
On the bleak, rugged brow of the pine-covered hill,
On the willowy marge of the lowliest rill.

And wherever it falls, God's rich bounty expresses,
Who the high and the low, in his providence blesses ;
Faithful witness in heaven, still renewing the token,
Of a covenant love that shall never be broken.

Rushmere.

18*th*, *Fifth-day.* At the week-day meeting at Ipswich, where, after a considerable time of, I trust, not unprofitable silence, it seemed right to express a little of what opened on our minds, and something was said on the necessity and urgency of the inquiry, whether our day's work was going forward with the day. Called after meeting on our dear cousin A. Alexander ; found her weak in body, but numbering her blessings, and looking forward in lively hope to the time when these shall be made full and permanent, yet feeling that this hope is only in the Lord's mercy.

24*th*, *Fourth-day.* The condition of the poor manufacturing operatives in the North, still presses on our minds. May we seek daily, under a sense of the multiplied blessings that are showered upon us, and the feeling of our utter unworthiness, to know what is our individual duty, and wherein we can acceptably render unto the Lord the tribute of gratitude for all his benefits. Oh ! that we did more generally and more fully appreciate the privilege of prayer ; of being encouraged, nay invited, to make known our requests unto God, through the help of the Holy Spirit, and in the name of the Redeemer who said, "Ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." He would prepare in our hearts, petitions that should be in accordance with his holy will, if we were reverently engaged to wait upon Him. "This is the con-

fidence that we have in Him," said the apostle, "that if we ask anything according to his will, He heareth us."—"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Oh! that we might so live in the Spirit, and walk in the Spirit, as that the blessed fruits of faith and prayer might be brought forth, to the praise and glory of God.

28*th*, *First-day.* There are, I fully believe, sheep of the great and good Shepherd scattered up and down amongst the nations of the earth under different names, and placed in a great variety of outward circumstances, who are as a handful of salt amidst a mass of irreligion, corruption and depravity. To some of these, in very remote parts of the earth, my mind at times turns in secret, and though never likely to see their faces here, desires to have fellowship with them in the Spirit, and to be permitted to bow with them before the God and Father of us all. This is what I would humbly crave, though utterly unworthy.

31*st*, *Fourth-day.* Led to take, this morning, a very humbling view of my past life, yet the remembrance of unmerited mercies and preservations, from my youth up, holds out encouragement yet to trust in the Lord, who "hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities."

Ninth Month 4*th*, *First-day.* Neither of us at meeting. Felt it a privation, and in my case, I fear, the weakness of the body was too much yielded to; which is a cause of weakness to the better part.

7*th*, *Fourth-day.* Riding out with my husband and sister, a poor man who said he was an agricultural labourer from Buckinghamshire, asked our charity. His appearance affected my mind, and brought strongly into view, the suffering that exists among the poor in many parts of this favoured country. This naturally led to reflections on the blessedness of that state, where want and misery are unknown, and on the employment of those happy spirits who inhabit that region of light and purity. The words of the apostle were brought forcibly, and with sweetness, to mind, "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." Without wishing to inquire

what may be their precise import, these words may well teach us, that if it be the highest privilege of saints and angels to be found doing the will of God, and if these are employed at his bidding in ministering to the necessities of his children, we ought surely to esteem it a favour of which we are altogether unworthy, to be permitted to minister spiritually or temporally to the wants of our fellow-probationers here below. Oh! that a desire may increase in us and ours, to be found faithful, and that we may ever remember the injunction of Holy Scripture, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world," knowing, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the prevalence of that love of the Father, which would cast out our earthly-mindedness.

To — —.

Tottenham, *Ninth Month* 10*th*, 1842.

My dear Friend,

. . . . . There are several topics touched on in thy letter, which, if able to do them justice, I would gladly advert to; but I am almost fearful of doing so, lest I should fail in conveying clearly my thoughts upon them. . . . . I have felt for thee in the train of thought which these circumstances are calculated to produce; but allow me to say, I do earnestly hope thou wilt not suffer thyself to reason too much upon them. . . . . Whatever may be the different views taken of this subject, let us endeavour to rest in the assurance, that there is undoubtedly a guidance vouchsafed to the Lord's people, and that as they are concerned to seek it in humble faith, and to follow it in simplicity, their way will, in due time, be made plain before them. It may not, and will not be, without that faith being closely proved; but this may be made productive of ultimate good, both to themselves and to the great cause in which they are so deeply interested. Perhaps it is not safe for us to look too much at those seeming discrepancies which do arise, and which we find, from the testimony of Holy Scripture, were to be met with, even in the early ages of the church; in saying which, do not imagine that I am drawing any parallel between the two cases. Still, it may be instructive to remember, that in the days of the apostles, there

were diversities of view amongst those, who, we cannot doubt, were men led of the Spirit. Human infirmity, prejudice, or unworthy fears do seem, at times, to have warped the judgments of these, and were even permitted to prevail for a season, as we see in the dispute between Peter and Paul, (Gal. ii. 11.) and between Paul and Barnabas, (Acts xv. 37.) [After alluding to another case of apparent discrepancy, the writer proceeds]—Far be it from me to raise any difficulty on this passage; I only allude to it to prove, that we must keep our attention to great doctrines which are undoubtedly laid down in Scripture, and, through unutterable mercy, yet confirmed to us in the experience of the Lord's servants (and such, I fully believe, is the doctrine of the Spirit's teaching) rather than dwell too much on things which it is difficult to us to reconcile. Where man is concerned, we shall see more or less of inconsistency; "Yea," saith the apostle, "let God be true, but every man a liar," or, as we may perhaps venture to understand it, though every man be found a liar. . . . . .

I am thy affectionate,

M. S. Fox.

To — —.

Tottenham, *Sixth-day.*

My dear Friend,

As I am rather addicted to what thy little Scotch friend termed "thoughts after-hond," I am inclined to tell thee, some of those I have had since hearing the interesting paper thou wert so kind as to read to me, when I had the pleasure of thy company. I am sure thou wilt not suppose, I wish, in any degree, to lessen the value, or lower the importance of those blessed truths which are the very foundation of christian hope, if I say, that the longer I live, the more deeply I feel the preciousness of that view of the spirituality of the christian religion, which, I do believe, we, as a Society, have been particularly called to uphold. In proportion to the sense we have of its value, must be our desire that it may be maintained in its true simplicity, unimpaired by human admixture, and ever in connexion with and consequent upon, that blessed and glorious work wrought by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, when He condescended, for our sakes, to take upon Him

the form of a servant, and to suffer death upon the cross. In this feeling, I have no doubt thou wilt fully concur, but in reflecting upon the paper we read together, I thought, if this could be brought a little more into view, it would be well. I feel the more desirous of it, because whilst we are trying to guard against one error, we may unintentionally let slip an opportunity of calling attention to another; and perhaps some disposition to undervalue the inward work of religion in the heart, is on the whole a more prevalent temptation amongst our young people in the present day, (at least in this country) than that to which thou hast so feelingly adverted in the paper above-mentioned; at the same time, I am well aware of the need there is, to have the mind directed to "the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ." . . . . .

Thy sincerely affectionate,

M. S. Fox.

Tenth Month 7th, Sixth-day. Since the last date, we have had a good deal of indisposition. We were, nevertheless, at the Quarterly Meeting at Chelmsford, and I trust, had no cause to regret being with our friends on that occasion, though we were neither of us feeling equal to it as to the body, and the mind commonly sympathizes with its frail companion. Our own Quarterly Meeting has also been held, and was a season of renewed favour, when some of our dear friends were enabled to minister to edification and comfort.

Our sister S. F. left us on this day week. The enjoyment of her visit abridged in some degree by our state of health, but the company of affectionate and interested relatives, is at such times not less grateful.

Eleventh Month 8th, Third-day. Returned last Sixth-day from Brighton, where we have spent three weeks for the benefit of my husband's health; the last few days with our truly kind friend M. P., who ministered to our comfort in many ways, and the advantages we enjoyed under her roof, contributed, I believe, to the improvement of our health. Three meetings were held during the time, for a class of the inhabitants, towards whom my mind had been turned on a former occasion,—those in the station of domestic servants. They were well attended, and a covering

of precious solemnity prevailed, for which I desire to be humbly thankful. Under the pressure of this exercise, and the solicitude naturally felt on account of my dear S. F.'s health, this visit could not fail to be a time of mental conflict, but since we returned home, a degree of sweet peace has been permitted, and some renewal of confidence in the continued care and tender mercy of our Heavenly Father.

Twelfth Month 7th, Fourth-day. Many days of humiliation and strippedness, since the last memorandum was made. My mind often seems almost overwhelmed with the sense of worthlessness, and the fear lest after having preached to others, I myself should become a castaway,—a needful dispensation, I doubt not; may the Lord help me to wait patiently under it, and make it a season of lasting instruction to my soul. My dear husband's health very delicate,—my own scarcely less so. The consideration of our precious children being early deprived of our care, is at times brought home to us, but in tender mercy, the Lord is pleased to give us a grain of faith and hope, that He who has cared for us, will graciously condescend to care for them. May He take these lambs into his good keeping, and visit their tender minds with his love, making them truly his children, through the operation of his power upon their hearts.

23*rd, Sixth-day.* My husband set out for Wellington. M. is gone with him, and S. to Rushmere, to visit our relatives there. Though stripped of so many of my treasures at once, I hope I am, in some degree, thankful for unmerited mercies, especially for the favour of seeing my dear S. F. a little better in health.

1843. *First Month 5th, Fifth-day.* Prevented by indisposition from attending the interment of our aged relative, J. Grant, at Leighton, or that of our friend J. Bayes, which takes place here to-day; but I hope, thankful for a quiet, peaceful feeling at home. It is good to be practically taught our own insignificance.

8*th, First-day.* My dear husband and M., returned yesterday. It is a great favour to see the former in better health than when he left us, and to have had no cause for great anxiety during the time of our separation. We only want our dear S. to complete the family group.

Second Month 7th, Third-day. After being a good deal confined to the house lately, went to London to attend Devonshire-House Monthly Meeting, where were most of the other friends appointed by our last Quarterly Meeting to attend the Monthly Meetings. We went, I believe, under a humbling consciousness of our weakness and poverty, but were a little comforted in sitting down with our dear friends, feeling it profitable to ourselves at least, to be introduced into a degree of sympathy with those who may feel their need of help in many ways.

16*th, Fifth-day.* My dear husband and I were at the Monthly Meeting at Westminster: several of the committee met us there. A small meeting, but I think we felt it a season in which the sense of love and interest was a little renewed.

22*nd, Fourth-day.* At the Peel Monthly Meeting. Sat down in a most stripped condition, and for some time had such a struggle with wandering thoughts, that it seemed as if there would be no profit to my own mind, much less any capacity for a right exercise on account of others; but at length, it pleased the Lord to grant a little feeling of access to his sacred footstool, and a short petition was offered for the help that cometh from Him. After which, matter was very unexpectedly opened, which might be applicable to some present, and a precious sense of solemnity was mercifully afforded. May every such proof of the Lord's condescension to our low estate, both humble us and increase our faith.

25*th, Seventh-day.* Went to Leighton, to spend a day or two with our widowed relative H. G.; with whom we could not but feel sympathy. She seems desirous of numbering her blessings, especially in being permitted to enjoy the society of her beloved companion through a period of unusual length. He was, I think, in his ninety-third year, and they had been united sixty-two years.

Third Month 12*th, First-day.* A great variety of characters frequent this meeting, which often brings with it unlooked-for causes of exercise, though it may be in secret. I felt it so to-day, though way did not seem to open for any expression.

14*th, Third-day.* At Southwark Monthly Meeting; I think a season of renewed favour, though we felt very poor. Went

down to Staines, in the evening, with T. and C. N.; my dear husband prevented from going, to my great disappointment.

15*th*, *Fourth-day.* Monthly Meeting at Staines; a time of painful exercise, in which I was ready to conclude it would bo safest to bear the burden of the day in secret, but when it seemed almost time for the meeting to break up, dear C. N. stood up with an invitation to the young people, and when she sat down, the acknowledgment of a little concern for their best welfare was felt to be due from me. I trust some sense of tendering visitation was afforded, for which our hearts were made thankful.

28*th*, *Third-day.* Quarterly Meeting. The meeting for worship was very large, and not without some feeling of precious solemnity, though I was ready to think this would have been yet more experienced, if a patient exercise had been fully maintained. A number of offerings in the fore-part of the meeting; not perhaps without the right savour, yet it is possible the secret bearing of some of these burdens, might have profited the meeting as much as the expression of them. Ministers have indeed need of a single eye and of great watchfulness, in these large meetings, and those especially who have been newly called to the work are much to be felt for, but I often wish there were amongst us, more ability to appreciate the value of a secret travail of spirit for the body's sake. We were nevertheless favoured with some communications both weighty and edifying, as it seemed to me.

To J. F.—(in France.)

Tottenham, *Eighth Month* 4*th*, 1843.

My dear Friend,

It is far from what I intended, to be so long without availing myself of thy kind proposal to write a few lines, and I can assure thee the delay has not been caused by a want of interest in your movements; for we have often thought of thee and thy valued companions, and have felt it a privilege to be made acquainted with some of your engagements. . . . . It is cheering and comforting to hear of individuals in various places, who have been brought under the effectual teaching of the Holy Spirit, sincerely seeking, in the love of Christ our Saviour, to be in-

creasingly conformed to his blessed will; and to believe, that these are united in a precious fellowship, and can salute each other as pilgrims towards a better country, though their outward situations may be widely different. I am glad you have met with such, and have found it as a brook by the way, at times, whilst passing through countries where superstition reigns, and where the power of man has been employed to restrict, or, if possible, to prevent the spreading of scriptural truth amongst the people,—a barrier that now seems impregnable, but which shall be found utterly feeble, whensoever it shall please the Lord to make his way more fully known upon earth, his saving health among all nations. This was the prayer of the psalmist under the Old Testament dispensation, and may well be the prayer of the church now, seeing that her great and glorious Head is given, not only as a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of his people Israel, but for salvation unto the ends of the earth. We have been interested also in thy descriptions of the natural scenery with which you are surrounded, and could enter into some of the feelings thou expressed after beholding them, though we have never seen, nor expect to see, these wonders of the divine Hand. It is surely allowable that you should look upon and admire them, now you are in the country; though I can well believe, the moral and spiritual condition of those whose souls must live when mountains and rocks shall have melted away, must be the absorbing object of your consideration; and to be found faithfully occupying the present field of labour, however small the opening may often appear, the prevalent desire of your minds.

I must now turn to some other subjects, and tell thee a little how it has fared with ourselves. Thou wilt have heard we ventured to cast our burden on the church, at the last Monthly Meeting; and that our friends entered feelingly into it. They seemed satisfied to direct the preparation of a certificate, and encouraged us to move on in faith. Oh! that more of this faith may be given us, and a watchful, diligent attention to the best guidance, and then we shall be helped from day to day, I fully believe. The prospect looks very serious; but I may, with thankfulness, acknowledge, that since the matter was brought

before the meeting, we have felt for the most part quiet and trustful, though very poor.

Our stay, of two weeks, at Folkstone, was a time of sweet enjoyment, in the society of our precious children ; and the rest and seclusion were favourable and seasonable for ourselves. . . . .

Thy affectionate friend,

M. S. Fox.

CHAPTER XIX.

1843. Religious engagement in Scotland and North of England—Danger at sea—General Meeting at Aberdeen—Newcastle—Shields—Sunderland—Carlisle—Kendal—Lancashire—Return home—Change of residence—Illness of E. Robson—Last memorandum.

Maria Fox was now about to enter on her last journey, in the service of her Lord. Her husband and herself had obtained the concurrence of their Monthly Meeting, to pay a visit to a few of the meetings of Friends in some of the northern counties of England and in Scotland, also to attend the General Meeting at Aberdeen, and to hold some meetings with persons not of our religious Society. They left home early in the Eighth Month, for York and Hull, from whence they proceeded, by sea, to Aberdeen. After being at a few meetings with Friends and others in Scotland, they visited Newcastle, Shields and Sunderland; then went, by Carlisle and Kendal, into Lancashire, in which county they had some religious service, concluding with the Quarterly Meeting at Liverpool.

It is much to be regretted, that she left no record of this journey, except the few particulars that are to be found in the following extracts from letters, chiefly addressed to her sons at school.

To H. N.

Hull, *Eighth Month* 15*th*, 1843.

My dear H.

. . . . . We have much cause to be thankful, that hitherto

we have been favoured to proceed on our journey, without any interruption or difficulty as to the travelling, and I trust we may also gratefully acknowledge, that help has been mercifully afforded in those engagements which occurred at the commencement of our work, and which appeared formidable in prospect. Great kindness we have received from our dear friends, where we have been. As we travelled along, our minds seemed increasingly to tend to the conclusion, that it might be safest for us to take Hull in our way, and we found, on arriving at York, it would be needful, if that plan were pursued, to write immediately, so that we were at once brought to the point of deciding, whether we had better make our journey this way, or through Darlington. I am glad to say, we have felt quiet and trustful as to the decision, notwithstanding the weather, since yesterday morning, has appeared more inclined to a change than it previously did. We were at meeting on First-day morning, with our friends at York, in their usual gathering. In the evening, the inhabitants were invited, and a large meeting it was; an orderly and quiet company, chiefly, I should suppose, of the working class. Yesterday morning, we made a number of calls, and afterwards came to Hull, our cousin S. T. kindly accompanying us. Here we are privileged to be under the roof of our valued relatives, J. and M. H. Friends have fixed this evening for the holding of their week-day meeting, which is what we hoped might be the case. To-morrow, the *Martello* sails for Leith. The day is dull and misty, but calm. . . . . .

Thy affectionate,

M. S. Fox.

To S. L. F.

Edinburgh, *Eighth Month 17th*, 1843.

My dear S.,

. . . . . I have now to inform our precious children, that we are safely arrived at the house of our kind friend J. W., and desire our hearts may be humbled in gratitude to our Heavenly Father, for the mercies extended to us, in bringing us thus far on our way, without injury. We had a very pleasant voyage yesterday; the sea smooth and quiet,—the sun shining beauti-

fully, and, when its light was withdrawn, the moon silvering the waters. But, soon after midnight, the weather became more cloudy, and this morning it was exceedingly thick and hazy, so that our captain could not see his way, or easily discover whereabouts we were. On this account, our steam was much thrown off, and we proceeded very slowly, somewhere about four knots an hour, in order to guard against unseen dangers; sounding our bell at intervals, and keeping a sharp look-out for land or vessels. At length we came suddenly upon a French fishing-boat; the captain hailed her, but could not gain certain information from her crew; we therefore continued to move slowly and cautiously forward. Presently, another French boat came in sight, and, from the earnest gesticulations of all on board her, we could easily perceive they considered us in danger of running on the rocks. A few seconds showed us the cause of their alarm, by opening partially to our view, through the thick mist, lofty and craggy rocks, on which, notwithstanding the apparent smoothness of the water, a fearful surf was running, whilst the head of our vessel was standing directly towards them, and seemed to the passengers, within a stone's throw. "Helm a-port! and hard on!" was the word instantly given by the captain, and the passengers ordered to one side of the vessel, to assist her going about. It was a solemn moment, as we all stood silently watching the effect; but through the tender mercy of our Heavenly Father, extended at this season of peril, she came round, and we just cleared this formidable barrier. For some hours after this, (which occurred about eleven o'clock) we could see nothing more of the coast, and the captain was, in consequence, exceedingly anxious. We now stood far off to sea, still going on very slowly, and with the prospect of standing out for the night, if the mist did not lessen, having no clue whereby to venture up the Firth of Forth. The sun made many attempts to break through the fog, but it constantly settled again as thick as ever, till about two o'clock, P.M., when a gentle breeze sprang up, and in a few minutes cleared the whole scene, giving it the most beautiful, summer-like appearance, and showing clearly our course. What a proof of the providential care and goodness of the Lord, who can keep us by land or sea! I believe it was felt in degree by

many on board, and our hearts are, I think I may say, bowed in thankfulness before Him. We landed, about half-past five, at the pier at Leith. . . . . .

Your very affectionate mother,

M. S. Fox.

To B. M. F.

Aberdeen, *Eighth Month 21st*, 1843.

My dear M.,

I am inclined to begin a few lines before breakfast this morning, which may get finished at a future time; our opportunities for writing not being many just now, especially as it seems desirable, in this remote spot, where we never were before, and probably may never be again, to give our time and thoughts, as much as we can, to the immediate objects of our journey. This, however, does not prevent us from turning, with constant and tender interest, to our beloved children and many dear friends, left behind. Your letters are very cheering to us; dear S.'s came last night, and was refreshing at the close of the day.

Your dear father's letter would inform you of our safe arrival here on Sixth-day evening; the following was a day of seasonable rest, under the roof of our valued friend A. W., who, with his wife, gave us a truly cordial and hospitable welcome. Yesterday morning, we were at meeting with the friends of this place, and such others as had already arrived; a small company altogether, but enlarged by the presence of English and Irish visitors. In the evening, the invitation was extended, particularly to the inhabitants of the Gallow-gate, in which the meeting-house is situated, and parts adjacent. The attendance was large, the house being quite full, and very solidly the people sat, through a season of silence, which must have exercised the patience of some of them. I do not mean that the meeting was silent throughout, but that there was a larger portion of it than sometimes is the case, and, I doubt not, it might be profitable for a people who are accustomed, perhaps, to depend too much upon preaching; as well as instructive to ourselves.

The General Meeting, yesterday, was about the usual size. There are some nice friends in this little company, to whom we

have felt united in love and interest. We feel sympathy with the dear Friends in this nation, who are so distantly situated one from another, and so few altogether, and desire we and our dear children may gratefully appreciate our many religious and social privileges.

We have told you little yet about the country, but at present, our view of it has been much confined to the coast, which is very bold and striking. I thought much of you, as we passed the craggy rocks, broken into fantastic forms, on our passage to this place, and saw, every now and then, a secluded cove, with a sandy or gravelly beach, surrounded by almost inaccessible rocks and caves,—spots where you would have been delighted to ramble; but it is a fearful coast for the seamen, in some states of the weather. There are some fine buildings in Aberdeen; it is altogether an interesting and striking place, built chiefly of granite, which gives the public edifices an air of substantial grandeur.

Perth, Fourth-day evening. We are now thus much nearer to our precious children, which feels very pleasant. Perth is a good town, finely situated on the river Tay. We have seen some beautiful scenery as we travelled along, but though I desire never to be indifferent to the wonderful works of our Heavenly Father's hand, even in the outward creation, the inhabitants of the country, more especially the solitary ones who are united with us in religious profession, are the most interesting to us, seeing these must live, when rocks and mountains shall have passed away.

This evening, we have been to take tea with a family here, who profess with Friends, but are not members: thence to the meeting in the Wesleyan chapel; it was not large, but a quiet, orderly company, chiefly, I should suppose, the usual attenders of the place. . . . . .

Thy affectionate mother,

M. S. Fox.

To R. F.

North Shields, *Eighth Month 30th*, 1843.

My dear friend,

Thy kind letter received at Aberdeen, was truly welcome, and we have since been gratified by opening one from thy dear hus-

band, dated from Strasburg. It is pleasant to think of you as about to realize the comfort of meeting under your own roof, I trust, in tolerable health and in the enjoyment of peaceful feelings.

I scarcely know what account to give you of ourselves, or what to say of our prospects. We have got back into England, and seem now comparatively near you. May we be enabled to find our way safely, step by step. Though our stay in Scotland has been short, and the meetings we have attended, few in number, we have found great need to seek for faith and patience, as well as right direction, in order to get peacefully along; and have sometimes been ready to think the time of the General Meeting, not the most favourable for visiting Friends in that land. The number of visitors then collected together, all requiring more or less of arrangement and attention, whilst there are so few to undertake the care, has made us fearful of adding anything to the pressure on these, rendering it sometimes difficult to know where *our* right place might be; and it may have been profitable for us to have been thus led; for it is an interesting country, and its inhabitants in an interesting state, and we might have been in danger of getting astray some way or other. I do not mean that we were cramped; our call seemed to be to the Friends chiefly, and we visited the four principal meetings, and, I think, were favoured to leave them at last, under some comfortable sense of that love which is not confined to time or place. We were at meeting with the Friends of Glasgow on Sixth-day, and at Edinburgh on First-day. In both these cities, we felt best satisfied to appoint meetings for some of the inhabitants; the attendance was small, but the company quiet and orderly, and at Glasgow, I think we may say, there was a precious covering of solemnity; the meeting at Edinburgh was not quite so relieving. On Second-day, we called on most of the Friends in the latter place, and were constrained to ask them to meet together again in the evening, which they cheerfully made way for. I do not think we could have left comfortably, if we had not had this last meeting, though loth to make our friends any trouble we could help. We parted with dear J. G. and R. A. at Glasgow, under a sweet feeling of uniting love. We were very agreeably

associated with them on different occasions, and felt it a privilege to have their company, and to be permitted, in our measure, to unite with them in exercise, for the welfare of the little community under our name. On Third-day, we came from Edinburgh to Newcastle, having made an effort to get to Hawick, but found it difficult to make things fit, there being no places in the coach, on the day we wished to go there. . . . . .

At present, we are rather in a halting state: our prospect seems closed up, and we know not what we shall do after First-day, whether we shall attempt anything further, or return home. You will feel for us, and desire our preservation,—that if we have missed our way, we may be permitted to see how to get into the right course. We desire to be quiet, and to help each other to confide; perhaps our prospects will brighten in a day or two: we serve a good Master, and He will instruct us, I humbly hope.

Yours truly, but in discouragement,

M. S. Fox.

To H. N.

Sunderland, *Ninth Month 2nd*, 1843.

. . . . . On Fifth-day I was very much discouraged, my dear S. F. was so poorly, hardly equal, I was ready to think, to the travelling and other necessary exertions of body and mind; but we are a little more cheery to-day, and if favoured to see our way safely, step by step, shall, I trust, be thankful for the many mercies that have attended us. Our faith is often low, and the sense of our own unprofitableness, depressing. We have had a considerable proving of our faith since we left Scotland, and the desire has been strongly felt, that we might be permitted to see, what was the cause of the trial into which we were brought. The result has been, that we seem constrained to return into that country as far as Hawick, to see the little company of Friends there, and have a meeting with their neighbours. This is a drawback on our homeward progress, but if it be our duty, we desire to do it as cheerfully as we can, and it may not make us much later in the end. . . . . .

M. S. F.

To J. H. F.

Sunderland, *Ninth Month 2nd*, 1843.

My dear J.,

It is very sweet to me to sit down to write a few lines to thee, and to do it from this pleasant place, the residence of our kind friends T. and M. M. The last letter from us was finished on our arrival at Newcastle. We were at the week-day meeting there, on Fourth-day, and went, in the evening, to North Shields. On the way, we passed the famous Wall's-end coal-pit, where there is a constant stream of gas issuing through a large pipe. In order to keep the pit clear of this noxious gas, it has been lighted, and has now been constantly burning for several years. By day, it looks like a flame-coloured flag; by night, it is a gas-light on a grand scale..... We attended the week-day meeting at Shields, on Fifth-day, and had intended to go on to Stockton afterwards, but this part of our plan slipped through, and we had a little more time than we expected without any particular engagement. On the following morning, we went into Newcastle and made a few calls, returning to Shields in the evening, to a public meeting, which was pretty largely attended. This morning, we crossed the river Tyne, in a ferry-boat, and came to this place. We are to be at the meeting here, in the morning, and at Newcastle, in the evening.*

I hope, my precious child, thou art getting on nicely, and dost not find thy lessons more difficult than thou expected. Industry and perseverance will make them gradually easier, and thou wilt have the pleasure of feeling that the many advantages of thy present situation are not bestowed in vain. It is delightful to us to hear of your pursuits and enjoyments. We shall rejoice to turn our faces homewards as soon as possible, but must endeavour to exercise a little patience. We do not seem as if we should get forward quite so fast as at one time we hoped to do.

Thy affectionate mother,

M. S. Fox.

* This meeting was for the young Friends of Newcastle, Shields and Sunderland.

To S. L. F.

The Oaks, near Bolton, *Ninth Month* 14*th*, 1843.

My dear S.,

It is my turn to write, and thine to receive a letter; and truly pleasant it is to me to have a little leisure for so agreeable an employment as that of conversing with our beloved children, of whose welfare it is a great comfort to hear. . . . . Thy father's letter gave the report of us as far as Carlisle, and I will endeavour to follow out his narrative as well as I can. We went, after it was written, to a meeting at Scotby, a retired village, three miles distant, returned to Carlisle to lodge, and on Sixth-day, came by coach to Kendal; a fine ride, though a part of it very wild, over a high, rocky moor, called Shap-fells. We lodged in the town with M. M., a friend well known to me in early days; attended a meeting that evening, and on Seventh-day, after making a few calls, our kind friend W. D. C. came with us to Yealand, a pretty village, situated in a fine country. We attended that meeting, in the morning of First-day, and went, in the afternoon, to Lancaster. The castle, where so many of our early Friends (George Fox, in particular) suffered such long and painful imprisonments, is a striking object on entering the town. Our stay did not admit of our walking up to it, but I understand the room in which they were confined, is still shown. Their sufferings and trials in the performance of their religious duty, are a strong contrast to the state of things at present, but I desire we may have them often in remembrance, with gratitude for the privileges we enjoy, and as an incentive to value yet more highly, that which cost so much to its early advocates.

At Lancaster, we were both poorly, and felt ourselves not very fit for two meetings, which had been appointed at Wyersdale and Calder Bridge, for Second-day afternoon and Third-day morning. We were, nevertheless, helped through, and were not the worse, I believe, for going. The former is about eight miles from Lancaster,—a retired and rustic spot distant from any village. The meeting-house is quite of the primitive kind, and is attended by Friends who assemble from the little farms and cottages in the neighbourhood. A large proportion of those present were men,

notwithstanding it was the midst of the harvest, and in the afternoon. We thought it very interesting to sit down with them, and though but weak and low ourselves, were, I think, refreshed by our meeting together. We travelled afterwards a few miles further, to the house of R. J. at Calder Bridge. This friend, with the assistance of his brother, has built a meeting-house on his own land, adjoining his garden, and there we met another similar company, on Third-day. On Fourth-day evening, we were at meeting with Friends of Preston, and yesterday morning, came to Bolton, feeling the weight of a meeting appointed for the labourers employed in this concern. We were glad to get a little rest before going with our friends, in the evening, to the meeting held in a large room at the works, most nicely fitted up for the purpose. The attendance was from the two mills of Turton and Egerton, and some of the neighbours beside ; and a truly respectable looking company it was,—most quiet and orderly. We went to the meeting exceedingly low, and, I may truly say, in great fear, but I think we were favoured to know something of that solemnity which is so greatly to be desired, and we had cause for renewed thankfulness. This morning, we have been into Bolton, to the week-day meeting ; to-morrow, we expect to go to Marsden, and to Manchester, on Seventh-day.

We hope to be with you before the end of next week, and that is a very cheering prospect. With dear love to you all,

I am, thy very affectionate mother,

M. S. Fox.

To C. F.

Tottenham, *Ninth Month 27th*, 1843.

My dear Sister,

. . . . . We were favoured to return in safety, last Sixth-day, having attended the Quarterly Meeting at Liverpool, the day before. We have had a long and interesting journey, attended, thou wilt not doubt, with many exercises of faith, and performed under a sense of our own weakness, which it would not be easy to express, yet affording, in the retrospect, much cause for humble gratitude, in that we were helped from day to day, and, I trust, permitted

to realize something of the guidance of the great and good Shepherd ; though this was often step by step, and with little ability to look forward. You will have heard, no doubt, some account of our journeyings, but perhaps, not much, for we were able to write very little to W. We were at all the meetings in Scotland, (that is only five) and felt much interested for the little company in profession with Friends in that country ; scattered, as they are, over so large a space, and in such small numbers. . . . . The natural beauties of the country are great. We saw much fine scenery, though we were not in the part visited by tourists, having travelled all the way from Aberdeen, and across the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland, without once seeing a lake. The ranges of mountains and the diversified features of the country,—the magnificence of the principal cities and the moral and intellectual culture of the population, we could not fail to observe and admire ; though not without its draw-backs. Man is man everywhere ; and without the regenerating power of true, vital christianity operating in his heart, brings forth the wild grapes of his corrupt and fallen nature,—bitter and unprofitable fruit ! But the Scotch are undoubtedly a superior people, in many points of view ; and there is a shaking in the religious part of the community, which, we may hope, will, in some instances, be over-ruled for good, though it is productive of great party spirit at present. . . . . .

Thy truly affectionate sister,
M. S. Fox.

To a Niece.

Tottenham, *Tenth Month* 21*st*, 1843.

My dear S.

. . . . . We are glad to find our dear brother and sister are pleased with their new residence, and hope it may prove a healthful as well as agreeable change. A turn-over of the like kind awaits us, and looks rather mountainous at this season of the year, when days are short, and often dark and chilly. But we intend to do it as promptly as we can, and hope to find the good of a more sunny situation, in the winter. When summer returns (if

we live to see it), I suppose we shall all miss our pleasant garden, productive as it is of flowers and fruits; but we cannot expect to combine all advantages, and if the main points are gained, as relates to thy dear uncle's health and convenience, we shall have cause for heartfelt gratitude. . . . . We have had the weather very cold, the last week, and the sharp frosts have stripped us of nearly all the brilliant hues. The leaves still retain their hold, we think, with more than usual tenacity, but they too must soon yield to the wintry blast.

It is near post-time, and my poor sheet must be closed ere long. It ought to convey, but I feel it does not as I could wish, some expression of our love and interest, in all that relates to your dear circle. I hope you will soon have your nice, new meeting-house to meet in, and many comfortable meetings in it. What a privilege, to be permitted thus to assemble, and to believe, that in our separate and distant allotments, we may know something of a uniting in spirit. That it may be so now and ever, through the grace of Him who is the Head and High-Priest of his church, is the desire of,

Thy affectionate aunt,

M. S. Fox.

To F. F.

Tottenham, *Eleventh Month 15th*, 1843.

My dear F.

. . . . . It is very interesting to hear so many particulars of your circle. We do feel for you, in the continued trials, from sickness and delicacy, that attend you as a family, but take comfort in the assurance, that you know where to look for succour; and in the belief, that every such chastening has in it the evidence of a Father's love, to those whose hearts have been brought, through the power of divine grace, to behold their need of chastening. I must now endeavour to tell thee a little about ourselves,—but so much has passed, that it is not easy to know where to begin. We were six weeks from home, on our northern journey, and met with much that was deeply interesting to our feelings; travelled nearly fifteen hundred miles, and attended

meetings almost daily. We reached home the day after the Quarterly Meeting at Liverpool, and felt that we had abundant cause, humbly and gratefully to commemorate the mercies and preservations experienced. My dear S. F., who was very poorly during the journey at different times, I am thankful to say, is now much recovered; my own health is, I think, better than for many years. Just now, we are very busy, preparing for a remove to a house on "the Green;" that is, at the other end of Tottenham, a mile nearer to London and a higher situation. We give up our present dwelling, which has been to us a home of many comforts, on Second-day next. It is calculated to remind us of that great change, which must, ere long, overtake us all. I desire, we may profitably cherish the reflection, and that we may be stimulated to press continually after a preparation, through the mercy of the Lord, and by submission to the working of his Spirit, for "an house not made with hands."

Our valued friends, W. Allen and E. J. Fry, both continue ill. The former is considered to be decidedly, though gradually, sinking. The latter has revived a little, during the last week, and I understand her family are a little cheered about her; but she is in a very debilitated state, and her valuable life must be considered as precarious. . . . . .

I am, thy truly affectionate,

M. S. Fox.

To S. R.

Tottenham Green, *Twelfth Month 5th*, 1843.

My beloved Cousin,

Before I received thy kind letter, yesterday morning, the tidings of your dear mother's illness reached us, by a letter from our cousin M. W. We had previously heard of her prospect of visiting this neighbourhood, and, with many others, had rejoiced in the thought of such privileges being in store for us; as well as in the idea of our friend A. A. J. being thus provided with a companion and helper. The account of your beloved parent's illness has been proportionably felt, and our thoughts have turned with sympathy towards her affectionate children. It was truly pleasant to get thy letter, as it always is, and thy report of your-

selves and others dear to us, very interesting. I am glad you like the change of residence, and rejoice in the additional comfort for you and yours. I believe we shall find a great advantage in the change we have made, when we are thoroughly settled. Yet we did not quit a home, where we had enjoyed many blessings and privileges, without some fresh feeling of the uncertainty of all things here, and of the tending of these successive changes to that great change, that must overtake us all. May it profitably impress our minds, and prove a stimulus to increased diligence! . . . . . .

Thy truly affectionate,
M. S. Fox.

Maria Fox's journal and letters will be appropriately concluded, by the insertion of the last entry made in the former. The circumstances under which it was written,—only two weeks previously to her illness, and the sentiments which it contains, render it peculiarly interesting as well as instructive. In exhibiting her humble walk with God, her grateful sense of his mercies, her desire to order her household in true wisdom and in the fear of the Lord, together with her christian solicitude for her beloved children,—these few and simple lines furnish a beautiful epitome of her life and character.

Twelfth Month 1*st*, *Sixth-day*. Poor, weak, and unworthy of the least of the Lord's mercies, I yet desire gratefully and humbly to acknowledge they are new every morning; and under some fresh sense of this, my heart is tendered at this time. The last few weeks has been a time of no small exertion and some anxiety. We have just accomplished a remove from the house we have occupied for more than five years. It was a home of many comforts to us, but had some disadvantages as to situation,—inconvenient to my dear husband, and, some of our friends have thought,

prejudicial to his health. On this ground, it has seemed right to avail ourselves of an unexpected opportunity for making a change. At the same time, we have felt an anxious concern, that we might not be permitted to make a mistake in this matter. The adaptation of an outward habitation, not merely to the convenience, but, what is of still more consequence, to the real welfare of a family, is a point of some importance. We have been fearful, lest a rather larger house and something perhaps of a more genteel appearance, might, in any degree, prove injurious to our dear children, by giving them ideas above what we would desire for them. Our secret petitions have been, that we and they may be preserved in the path of true simplicity, and may have our affections increasingly placed on things above, and that nothing may be permitted to mar the peace of the soul, or prevent us from the daily cultivation of a calm, confiding spirit. My soul desires, at this time, the help of the Holy Spirit, to maintain the christian temper, and to walk before our household, in true wisdom and in the fear of the Lord.

CHAPTER XX.

1843, 1844. Illness—Decease—Letters illustrative of character—Testimony of Tottenham Monthly Meeting.

We are now come to the period when Maria Fox's earthly course was about to terminate,—when, in her own experience, the reality of those truths in which she believed and which she had so often publicly advocated, was to be brought to the test,—when a final and decided proof was to be given, that her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ was not the mere product of an ardent and lively imagination, but something substantial and unchanging in its character, adequate to support her under the pressure of illness, and in the solemn hour of death itself.

S. and M. Fox removed into their new abode at Tottenham, about the middle of the Eleventh Month, and, whilst entering with lively interest into all that concerned the comfort of her family, it is remarkable, how often she spoke of the change as emblematical of another of far greater importance, even from the earthly house of this tabernacle, to "a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

At this time, she wore all the appearance of more than an ordinary share of health, and seemed to be capable of entering on an enlarged sphere of active duties; but such was not the design of Him whose ways are not as our ways, or his thoughts as our thoughts. In his inscrutable wisdom, He was about to

release his handmaid from her service in the church below, to unite in the perfect and more glorious services of the church above.

The following narrative of her illness and of the closing scene, is extracted, almost verbatim, from the notes taken by two of her kind friends and attendants.

On the evening of Sixth-day, the 15th of Twelfth Month, she was suddenly seized with hemorrhage from the lungs. Her husband had just left her to attend to some business in the village, and to be summoned home, from such a cause, was a shock, great indeed; — but under these circumstances, so unexpected and awful, it was evident that his beloved companion was not unprepared for such a stroke, for, although she appeared for a few minutes acutely to feel her situation, she was presently favoured with great composure, saying, "I am very calm,—I feel I am in my Heavenly Father's hands." Later in the evening, the same alarming symptoms returned, and with much greater violence than before, and they recurred several times during the next three days. Weakened, as she was, by these attacks, so serious in their character and so overwhelming to those around her, she was preserved in remarkable tranquillity,—her care and solicitude for others were still conspicuous, and being forbidden to use her voice, many were the sweet messages that she wrote, proving her tender thought for those dearest to her, and for her absent friends.

17*th*, *First-day*. After breakfast, her eldest son read the fourteenth chapter of John, in her chamber. A sweet quiet succeeded, when S. F. made a few remarks on the Saviour's words, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." This appeared to be a comfort to her, and it was indeed abundantly evident, that the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, did keep her heart and mind through Jesus Christ. When, in the afternoon, a distressing attack of hemorrhage came on, she said to E. C. M., (her kind and assiduous medical attendant) "It seems as if the wheel were broken at the cistern."

18*th*, *Second-day*. It was judged needful to bleed from the

arm, and this measure, though effectual in preventing the recurrence of the fearful and distressing symptoms, produced great exhaustion and faintness. "My Heavenly Father," said she, in a very faint voice, "knows all, and his will is a perfect will. Sometimes, I think that in his great mercy, He will raise me up—in degree, and at others, it seems as if the frail tabernacle would give way."

19*th*, *Third-day*. She was, indeed, enabled to comfort others with the comfort wherewith she herself was comforted of God. Her breathing had become much oppressed, and whilst her husband was supporting her in bed, she said, "I think, my precious love, unworthy as I am, that the everlasting Arm is underneath." She afterwards told him, how frequently she had derived encouragement from the words which a beloved friend and minister of the gospel had lately addressed to them, "Be of good cheer, my brother, I feel the bottom, and it is good." On another occasion, to one who approached her bed-side, "I am still clinging to the Rock that is higher than I."

20*th*, *Fourth-day*. Her illness was not attended with much bodily pain, but she often suffered greatly from weakness and difficulty of breathing. After recovering from a severe fit of coughing, she said, in a very impressive manner, "Peace be still, and there was a great calm! The winds and the waves rage, till He speaks the word, but no longer." The exertion of the voice was so much forbidden, that no protracted conversation could be held, but different portions of Scripture were frequently repeated or referred to by her, as well as verses of favourite hymns; and she was often vocally engaged in prayer and thanksgiving to her Heavenly Father, whose tender love and compassion were so evident throughout this season of trial, and were so often acknowledged by herself, saying, at one time, "I am sweetly folded in my Saviour's arms," and at another, "My comforts are very great, they flow as a river,—all is peace and rest and joy."

22*nd*, *Sixth-day*. When E. C. M. visited her, in the morning, he remarked that he believed many hearts were lifted up in prayer for her restoration, if it were right in the divine sight; she sweetly answered, "Rather let them pray, that I may be enabled to say fully,—Not my will, but thine, O Lord! be done."

Recovering from a fit of coughing, she said, "Fearfully and wonderfully made, and that, my soul knoweth right well." She was afterwards observed in supplication, the last words only being distinctly gathered, "For thy sake and for thy dear Son's sake."

27*th, Fourth-day.* It was a striking feature in her state of mind, during the rapid course of this illness, that her natural affections, sanctified as they were by divine grace, shone forth with peculiar brightness and tenderness. "I want to tell thee, my precious," said she to her husband, "how thy tender love helps me," and on other occasions, she spoke most touchingly of the comfort which she derived from his company.

Whenever she was able to bear the exertion, she took great pleasure in seeing her children, and entered with her usual tender interest into their pursuits and gratifications; yet it was very instructive to observe that her mind was preserved from thoughtfulness or anxiety respecting them: she reposed on the bosom of divine mercy and love, on their account as well as her own, expressing the gratitude she felt to some beloved relatives, who, in consequence of their mother's illness, had taken in her two younger sons as guests during their vacation. She rejoiced in their safe and happy allotment, saying, "It is a comfort to me to think of, by day and by night;" and when in a state of great weakness, it afforded her relief and solace to hear of their employments and pleasures.

Nor were her sympathies even now, under the pressure of severe bodily illness, confined to her own family; those of whom, whilst in health, she had ever been mindful,—the sick and the afflicted, still shared her thoughts, and she repeatedly requested that some of the nice things provided for her, might be sent to them.

30*th, Seventh-day.* This morning, she repeated, in a faint but clear voice, the first four stanzas of the hymn beginning,

> "Incarnate God, the soul that knows
> Thy name's mysterious power,
> May dwell in undisturbed repose,
> Nor fear the trying hour."

The fifth chapter of Romans was afterwards read to her, to

which she listened with much attention, remarking, when it was finished, "How full! what can be more so?"

Some days after, she was overheard praying, in the words of the seventy-first psalm, "Be Thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort; Thou hast given commandment to save me, for Thou art my rock and my fortress," &c. After the fifteenth of John had been read to her, at her own request, she exclaimed, "Fruits of faith, fruits of patience, fruits of submission; He designeth that we should bring forth fruit. Oh! that these fruits may be brought forth to his praise." At another time, she repeated the verse,—

"Come, my soul, thy suit prepare,
Jesus loves to answer prayer;
He himself has bid thee pray,
Therefore will not say thee nay."

She spoke then, as she had done before, of the compassionate regard of her Saviour, remarking what support she had derived from looking to Him, on occasions of very trying suffering. The peaceful repose of her soul in her God and Saviour, was appropriately and beautifully described, in the following language of the psalmist, which she often quoted, "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep; for thou, Lord, only, makest me dwell in safety." On refreshment being given her, she recited some lines of a hymn, to which she frequently referred, in the course of her illness,—

"How much better thou'rt attended,
Than the Son of God could be,"—

and then repeated the annunciation to the shepherds, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born, this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord;" concluding with the praises of the heavenly host, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men."

1844. *First Month 5th, Sixth-day.* When her medical attendant called in the morning, she told him that she felt very poorly, to which he replied, he did not think she had improved, the last few days. As he left the room, she shed a few tears,

and said to her companion, "My dear, you must pray for me, for I am almost too weak to pray for myself." With this exception, it is not believed that anything caused her to shed a tear, during her illness; indeed, it seemed as if all doubt and fear were removed, and not a cloud was permitted to darken her truly peaceful and happy state of mind.

Whilst her daily and hourly thoughts were of God, and out of the abundance of the heart, she was so frequently led to testify of that goodness, mercy and truth, which did not fail her in this time of affliction, and notwithstanding the great debility and consequent exhaustion of her frame, her original brilliancy and liveliness of thought would occasionally show themselves, bringing before her friends the recollection of what she was in health.

7*th*, *First-day*. She remarked, "I am very ill," adding soon after, no doubt in reference to the issue of her illness, "I want not only to *think* my will is resigned, but to *know* it." Awaking in the night, she repeated the text, "I am the Lord, I change not," adding, "That word seems given to me night after night, 'I am the Lord, that healeth thee,' and I have a degree of faith to lay hold of it." Her attendant remarked, "There is no limit to his power or his love." She rejoined, "Nor to his compassions, they fail not."

9*th*, *Third-day*. This day was very quietly passed, with as little suffering as any, and the relief from some of the most trying symptoms was sweetly acknowledged by the beloved sufferer; "I think," said she, "the Lord bears me up, He carries me through all." When her husband was leaving her for the night, she called him back, saying, with a countenance expressive of the peace that reigned within,

> "Heavenly blessings, without number,
> Gently falling on my head."

In the course of the night, she sent a message of dearest love to him, and when asked if he might be told she was comfortable, answered, "Yes, not only comfortable, but *very* comfortable." When S. F. returned in the morning, she told him the night had been "full of blessings,—loaded with benefits."

During the whole of her illness, it was very striking and in-

structive to observe how her mind was stayed upon her Saviour, and how little reliance she placed upon the medicines and other means used for her relief, except under the divine blessing; so much so, that she did not like to have them spoken of, as having benefited her, without allusion at the same time being made, to the power by which they were rendered efficacious. On her attendant remarking in the morning, that she thought "we had done very well through the night," M. F. quickly rejoined "Do not say,—*we* have done very well; say,—we have been helped through the night."

11*th*, *Fifth-day*. On settling down for the night, she said, "And now, O Lord! thou Keeper of Israel, thou Guide and Guardian of thy people, to Thee we commend our souls." Awaking about the middle of the night, she remarked, "We are having a balmy night,—'He giveth his people a song in the night.'" "Yes," it was replied, "songs many." She rejoined, "Yes,—songs of deliverance, songs of gratitude, songs of praise, and songs of thanksgiving." She sat up in bed, and after being refreshed a little, repeated, with her own most impressive and feeling emphasis, Cowper's lines,

> "Man is a harp, whose chords elude the sight,
> Each yielding harmony, disposed aright;
> The screws reversed, a task, which, if He please,
> God, in a moment, executes with ease,
> Ten thousand, thousand strings at once go loose,
> Lost, till He tune them, all their power and use."

13*th*, *Seventh-day*. Her faith and patience were now to be put to a still closer proof. To languor and weakness, was to be added, in the order of divine discipline, severe bodily pain. Towards the morning of this day, an attack of spasms came on, from which she suffered for some hours, yet never during the whole time, did the least complaint or murmur escape her. When under great weakness and faintness, she looked up and said, "Say something to comfort me." The Scripture passage was quoted, "Even the youths shall faint and be weary,"—"but they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength:" she seemed gladly to accept these words of encouragement, and supplied, with emphasis, a part of what had been omitted, "He giveth power

to the faint." In the course of the day, when much exhausted, she sweetly said,

"Jesus is my living bread,
He supports my fainting head."

In the evening, being better, she remarked, "It is now over and got through;" shortly after adding,

"When first, thou didst thy all commit,
To Him upon the mercy-seat,
He gave thee warrant from that hour,
To trust his wisdom, love and power."

The night which followed this day of bodily suffering, was one of peculiar serenity and even enjoyment; she sent her dearest love to her husband in the next room, and desired he might be told, she was "exceedingly comfortable, spiritually and temporally." "I feel," wrote one of her attendants, "it would be impossible for me to describe the sweet tranquillity of this night, the last on which it was my happy privilege to attend her. I left her about seven o'clock the next morning, and when I again entered her room at noon, I thought I had never seen anything so lovely as she then looked; she was dozing, but there was something so beautiful, so heavenly in the expression of her countenance, that it made an impression on my mind never to be forgotten." Thus was the refining process graciously carried forward,—thus was her light shining more and more unto the perfect day,—that day was now nigh at hand!

15*th*, *Second-day.* When her husband came to her early in the morning, she said, in a tone of the tenderest affection, "I am so delighted to see thee, I have been thinking of thee with so much love."

Towards noon, she became much exhausted, but said she had no pain. She was now gradually sinking, and it was evident to those who were watching beside her, that the last moment was near. It would be difficult to convey any idea of the sweetness of her manner and countenance,—it told of peace and of safety in the hand of Him whom she had loved and served. In the evening, on her husband's inquiring, "Is my dearest Maria comfort-

able?" she answered, "*Thoroughly.*" At last, when it was supposed the power of speech was gone, he bent over her, and, amidst the utmost silence of that silent chamber, said, "My dearest knows her Saviour loves her;" to which she distinctly replied, "*Yes, and I am reposing in his love.*" After this, she lay very quietly, till a little before eleven, when she drew a longer breath than usual, and one or two gentle sighs released the immortal spirit to sleep in Jesus. On receiving the signal that all was over, as far as this life was concerned, her husband knelt down, and returned praise to Him, who had so gently lifted her out of the dark valley of the shadow of death, and translated her, through the riches of his love and mercy in Christ Jesus, into the mansions of eternal glory.

Thus have we traced, through the varied stages of her earthly course, the circumstances, and the religious experience, of this servant of Christ. And in her own simple record of the operations of divine grace upon her soul,—of her fervent and abiding concern to surrender to its sanctifying influence, every faculty of her mind,—and of the power of that faith which gave her the victory through Jesus Christ her Lord, the reader will be presented with a view of her character, more calculated to impress and to instruct, than any elaborate delineation of the gifts and qualifications with which she was endowed. All, therefore, that remains to be added, are some tributes to her memory, from the pens of her friends. The first of these consists of extracts from letters, written by a much esteemed minister of the gospel to his wife, after she had joined the bereaved mourners, on the deeply affecting occasion when the mortal remains were consigned to their long home.

"As it regards herself, fully prepared, as we can thankfully believe she was, to stand before the throne of the Highest, clothed with the beautiful garments of salvation, the robe of her Saviour's righteousness, we cannot but esteem it an especial act of his grace and mercy, that with a frame and a spirit so peculiarly delicate and so exquisitely sensitive, when the final issue could scarcely any longer be regarded as doubtful, the work was thus cut short in righteousness, and long-protracted conflict spared to one who seemed so much better fitted for the converse of the blessed in heaven, than to contend with the struggles of the mortal flesh on earth. But what must be the feelings of the dear bereaved partner and the precious children! The one, indeed, had all, in a wife, that a husband could desire, the other, all, in a mother, that children could need; but though this all has been lost on earth, they have the consolation of believing, that whilst to her, to live was Christ,—to die has been gain, and that though she can return no more to them, they may go to her, and be happy with her, for ever, in the Lord."

"By this time, thou hast shed a tear beside the remains of the beloved companion of thy earlier days,—the faithful and affectionate friend of later times, and my heart has tenderly sympathized with thee, in this thy visit to the house of mourning; but inscrutable as are the ways of Him who giveth not account of his matters, we cannot doubt, that infinite wisdom, combined with unutterable love, directs them all, and that therefore, all may be said to be well done that is done. I can still hardly realize the solemn fact, that she is now no more. When I look back to the days of our early acquaintance, under the maternal wing of dear S. Hustler,—her own and her sister's tarriance at Bradford, under peculiarly interesting circumstances,*—our little journeyings together, when her mind had but recently taken a decidedly religious turn, and when I remember the evident growth in grace that had been experienced, and which was apparent at our next interview at Southampton, where I first heard the sweet, but clear though trembling accents of her newborn ministry; and recollect what strength it had attained on

* After their father's death.

her subsequent visit to our meeting, not long after her change of name,—how wonderfully it had been preserved through the most agitated period of later history,—what a character and standing it had obtained amongst her best and most judicious friends, and the field of usefulness there seemed open before her, in a church, where, indeed, the labourers are so few,—and when I see that all this 'promise fair' is cut off in a moment, the dispensation seems indeed mysterious, but not on that account the less marked as his, whose ways are not as our ways, whose thoughts are far above our thoughts, and who only, seeing the end from the beginning, does all things well and wisely. He fails not to comfort the mourners, whilst He gathers his saints unto Himself, and, I doubt not, the beloved father and the precious children will abundantly partake of that cup of consolation, which the gospel of our blessed Redeemer so sweetly affords."

This graphic description will doubtless meet a feeling response in the hearts of all who were acquainted with Maria Fox, and even by the general reader, it can scarcely be perused without exciting a deep and touching interest. The same remarks apply also to the following lines, written by one of her female friends, on receiving a likeness of the beloved departed one.

"I have now to thank thee for the valuable likeness, which we shall greatly prize, as reminding us of one, whom we truly loved and honoured, and whose memory will ever be fondly cherished by some of us. Not indeed, that we needed anything to recall her to remembrance; for truly we must forget all that has ever called forth our admiration, as lovely or beautiful in character,—every exemplification of christian excellence, before the image of our beloved friend can be effaced from our hearts. For my own part, I may say, that no female character it has been my privilege to know, has ever seemed to me, so beautifully perfect as hers; and although now the subject is not unmingled with mournful feelings,

I often enjoy to dwell upon it. Richly gifted as she was by nature, and combining, in rather a peculiar manner, the finest qualities of mind and heart,—the entire simplicity which marked her and the absence of everything like selfish feeling, often seemed to me, the crowning charm. She did, indeed, *adorn* the doctrine of God our Saviour, and perhaps few have ever rendered that doctrine more attractive, to those younger or less experienced than herself. And now, how delightful to think of her, as rejoicing in the unveiled presence of Him, whose image she so sweetly bore on earth, and the exceeding abundance of whose grace, she did indeed exemplify in her daily walk, whilst amongst us. Surely, the possession and the loss of such a friend, should stimulate us to fresh diligence in the heavenly race, by exhibiting the beauty of a life of holiness, and the blessedness of the consummation to which it leads."

In conclusion, is added the testimony of another devoted minister of the gospel, who, although not so intimately acquainted with the subject of this Memoir as those who have been already quoted, highly appreciated her standing and service in the church, and had long entertained for her, sincere esteem and love.

"I am one of those who deeply mourn the loss, which the Society of Friends and the church of Christ at large, have sustained, by the death of Maria Fox. She was in the strength of her years, and in the maturity of her religious experience. She possessed a healthy, well-balanced mind; and whilst she was firmly attached to the religious principles and practices in which she had been educated, believing them to approach more nearly to the strength, purity and spirituality of primitive christianity, than any other view or form of religion with which she was acquainted, she was destitute of even the least infusion of a sectarian spirit. That she was devout and constant in the perusal of the Holy Scriptures, and that she diligently searched those sacred treasures with which they abound, was manifest, from the deeply instructive manner in which she was enabled, in the exercise of the precious

gift of the ministry, to unfold the divine and saving truths, of which they testify. Her life was in Christ, and she knew it to be, at once, her duty and her privilege, to listen to the Shepherd's voice within, and to follow Him, in all things, in the obedience of faith.

" In her religious communications, were combined the strong lines of truth, with the persuasive influence of gentleness, tenderness and love; and surely, it was by the Lord alone, that she was called to a work so humiliating to her sensitive nature, and by his anointing only, was she qualified to perform it. Whilst her soul was deeply imbued with a sense of the importance of the fundamental doctrines of the gospel, she never lost sight of the practical results into which they are designed to lead, even a life of holiness and of devotedness to the service of Christ, under the immediate guidance and influence,—the quickening and sanctifying power, of the Holy Ghost.

" By grace alone, she was what she was,—she knew that Jesus himself was the only way to the Father, and, as she approached the confines of an invisible and eternal state of existence, she cast herself, without reserve, on his perfect righteousness and all-availing propitiation, and in the power of an endless life, as we reverently believe, she passed away from this sublunary scene of change and sorrow, to the fulness of rest, joy and happiness, in the presence of his glory."

A TESTIMONY

From TOTTENHAM MONTHLY MEETING, *concerning* MARIA FOX, *who died at Tottenham, on the 15th of the First Month,* 1844, *and was buried there on the 23rd of the same, being nearly fifty-one years of age, and a Minister upwards of twenty years.*

IN reviewing the life and character of this, our beloved, departed friend, we desire to bear our testimony to the sufficiency of divine grace, by which she was what she was; to set forth the dealings of the Lord with his servant, and the efficacy of that power which sustained her, whilst passing through the valley of the shadow of death.

Maria Fox was the daughter of Benjamin and Tabitha Middleton, of Wellingborough in Northamptonshire; friends, who, honouring God in their lives, were honoured of Him, and whose circumspect example, and christian care and counsel, were eminently blessed to their beloved daughter. They exercised a wise care in the choice of her associates, and enjoined plainness of language and attire, as a constituent part of gospel simplicity: filial obedience, strengthened by filial love, led her to yield ready submission to their wishes; and these restraints, which at that period were sometimes felt to be irksome, afterwards obtained the assent of her matured judgment. Our dear friend was early accustomed to useful domestic employment, and trained in habits of order and industry. She was of an amiable disposition, and possessed much natural vivacity, an ardent mind and a warm imagination, pursuing whatever she engaged in, with great earnestness and perseverance. Her judicious and watchful parents provided her with suitable reading, and other means of acquiring useful knowledge, and she diligently and profitably availed herself of these advantages. She delighted in contemplating and studying the works of creative wisdom, with a heart warmed with love and gratitude to their almighty Author; but she felt that such pur-

suits do not satisfy the wants of an immortal soul. In reference to this interesting period of her life, it is instructive to observe, how, in deep humiliation of soul, she delineates her earlier days, in the following review of the first forty years of her life.

1833. *Third Month 30th.* "This day, being my birth-day, could not fail to bring with it many serious reflections. The charge of Moses to the assembled tribes of Israel, when he recounted to them the mighty acts of God, has been much in my mind. 'Remember all the way by which the Lord thy God led thee, these forty years, in the wilderness.' O my soul! thou art, indeed, especially called upon to consider and to admire, with humble and adoring gratitude, the way by which thou hast been led; the difficulties, the temptations, the deliverances, and, above all, the multiplied and abounding mercies, thou hast experienced.

"In the ten years of childhood, I enjoyed the tender care of pious parents, whose unremitting endeavour it was, to train up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, to introduce them early to an acquaintance with the Holy Scriptures, and, by wise and judicious culture, to prepare the soil of the heart for the operations of the heavenly Husbandman. Being of a high spirit and volatile temper, my disposition rendered restraint as needful as it was irksome, and often brought my tenderly affectionate parents into deep anxiety on my account. Many and fervent were their prayers, I doubt not, that I might be brought under the regulating influence of the Holy Spirit, and be led to see the beauty of the truth as it is in Jesus; and these, their petitions, I have often since considered as the richest inheritance they could bequeath to their children. Very early was my heart made sensible of the love of God, and strong desires were at times raised in my soul, to become one of his children. But, notwithstanding these good impressions, and my love of the Holy Scriptures, which I read much and with great delight, the next ten years were, for the most part, years of inconsideration and levity. In the course of them, we were deprived of our excellent mother, whose example was peculiarly instructive, and her counsels prudent, judicious, and affectionate. My thoughts often recur, with bitter anguish, to the few years which immediately followed her death, when I might have afforded so much solace to my tender

and deeply-sorrowing father, had but my heart been duly subjected to the restraining power of the cross of Christ; and Oh! what cause have I to adore the preventing grace which saved my feet from the path of destruction, at a time when my own folly and inconsideration would have made me an easy prey of our soul's enemy: then, perhaps, were those prayers of my beloved parents, which had for so many years been offered up, permitted to descend on their unworthy child, in the blessing of that God who heareth and answereth prayer, and who, in his tender mercy, was pleased to follow me with the reproofs of instruction.

"The ten years subsequent to this, were years of chastisement and discipline, variously administered. Our inestimable father was taken from us, under circumstances which, even now, move every feeling within me, when they are vividly brought to remembrance. After his redeemed spirit had joined its beloved companion in the world of rest and purity, a series of trials,—some, of my own procuring, for want of prayerful dependence on an Almighty Saviour,—some, more directly in the course of providential dispensation, were made the means of humbling and softening, in some degree, my hard, obdurate heart. I was brought to feel my own sinfulness, helplessness and misery, and to cry, I humbly trust, in sincerity of soul, 'God be merciful to me a sinner;' to lie prostrate at the feet of Jesus, my compassionate Saviour, and, in a precious feeling of resignation to his will, to beg that He would do with me whatsoever seemed good in his sight. Then was the love of Christ felt to be a constraining principle, and after many deep conflicts of spirit, I was made to bow before the Lord, and brought to a willingness to testify to others what He had done for my soul. In our Quarterly Meeting at Poole, a few days after the completion of my thirtieth year, I first spoke in the character of a minister. The sweet peace I was permitted to enjoy for a short time afterwards, no language can describe; a sense of the pardoning love of God, in Christ Jesus my Lord, seemed to swallow up my spirit, and leave nothing to disturb the soul's repose on his infinite, everlasting mercy. 'Bless the Lord, O my soul! and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul! and forget not all his benefits.'

"And now what shall I say of the last ten years? What a record would they present of the faithfulness of God, of the tender care and matchless mercy of my covenant Lord and Saviour, and of my own ingratitude, unfaithfulness and negligence! My cup has, indeed, been made to overflow with blessings. To me belongeth only blushing and confusion of face, but I trust I may acknowledge, with reverent gratitude, that to these temporal mercies, my Heavenly Father, in his abounding goodness, has been pleased to superadd somewhat of the blessings of the heaven above, to show me more clearly the sinfulness and depravity of my own heart, and to give me stronger and fuller views of the glory of that gospel, which is the 'power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth:' here then, let me set up an Ebenezer, and say,—Hitherto hath the Lord helped me. Whether days or years may be added to the fleeting span of life, is known only to Him who seeth the end from the beginning: wonderful in counsel and excellent in working, He doeth all things well: to this only wise God, our Saviour, I desire to commit myself and those dearest to me."

Soon after the death of her mother, the health of our dear friend became very delicate, and continued so, with some variation, through the remainder of her life In the apprehension that a change of residence might prove beneficial, she removed, in the year 1821, with her only and beloved sister, Hannah Middleton, to Southampton. Here, as elsewhere, her benevolent heart was often brought to feel deeply for the poor and the afflicted, and she was actively engaged in efforts to alleviate their sufferings, and to improve their moral condition. In 1825, she was acknowledged as a minister, and in the following year, in company with her sister and her valued relative, Ann Alexander, she visited some parts of Holland and Germany, as well as the Friends of Prymont and Minden, and was afterwards engaged in further religious service.

In the Fifth Month, 1827, she was united in marriage to our dear friend, Samuel Fox, then residing at Wellington, in Somersetshire, and to him she became a most tenderly attached and faithful companion, and to her beloved children, a very affectionate and ever watchful mother. During her residence in the

West of England, she visited several parts of the nation, with the full concurrence of her friends at home, and to the comfort and edification of those amongst whom she travelled.

In the year 1838, Maria Fox became a member of this Monthly Meeting; and we have a testimony to bear to the soundness and the authority of her ministry. It was a gift bestowed by the great Head of the church, and she was concerned, faithfully to occupy it to his honour. She was repeatedly absent from us in the service of the gospel, and being careful to wait for the puttings forth and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, she was given to feel the safety and the blessedness of moving in simple dependence upon Him. For the poor and the destitute, for the oppressed and the afflicted, for the very outcasts of society,—for those who were living as without God in the world, her soul was oftentimes exercised before the Lord: and in this village and neighbourhood, as well as in other parts, when travelling in the work of the ministry, her labours were especially directed to such as these.

It was her concern, in her daily walk, to carry out the principles of the gospel in the performance of the various duties of life. The natural cheerfulness of her disposition, and her uniform kindness and sympathy, endeared her to the friends of this meeting. Her general character was unobtrusive and retiring; but those powers of conversation, which, in early life, when the heart was full of the vivacity of youth, had rendered her an interesting companion, continued to be conspicuous, corrected, as they were, by age and experience, and regulated by the fear of God and the power of true religion. She knew how to sympathize with her dear children in their trials and temptations, entering with interest into their pursuits and recreations; and, in her general intercourse with young people, she had the talent of combining innocent pleasure, with religious instruction and mental culture.

Whilst her heart was enlarged in charity to all, she was, from mature conviction, firmly attached to the principles and doctrines of our religious Society, believing them to be in strict accordance with the New Testament. With powers of quick perception and a comprehensive mind, she was concerned that every part of divine truth might be received with reverent thanksgiving. She had no

relish for writings of a controversial character, believing their tendency to be often injurious, and that they are not the source from whence ministers of the gospel are to derive their instruction: but being diligent in the reading of the Holy Scriptures and in meditating upon them, and waiting before the Lord for the enlightening influence of his Spirit, they were unfolded to her understanding, to her comfort and edification.

Our beloved friend felt the preciousness of that redemption which comes through the Lord Jesus Christ; she loved Him because He first loved her, and gave Himself for her, and under the expansive influence of this love, strong were her desires that others might love Him also. She was often brought into a state of great self-abasement; she knew she had nothing but what she had received, and felt altogether unworthy to be employed in the service of her Lord; but receiving the religion of Christ as full of consolation to the true believer, she did not indulge in gloom or distrust; on the contrary, it was her endeavour to hope continually, and in everything to give thanks.

Her last journey, in the service of the gospel, was into Scotland and some of the northern counties, in company with her beloved husband. She returned home in the Ninth Month last, and was seldom absent from our meetings afterwards. During this period, her communications in the ministry and vocal petitions at the throne of grace were not unfrequent, and were attended with peculiar brightness and power. In the persuasive, constraining love of the gospel, she was enabled to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to set before us a view of the shortness and uncertainty of this life, and the necessity of preparation for that which is to come. She was then in possession of more than a usual share of health, and of that cheerful yet chastened enjoyment of life, of which a christian may lawfully partake, until the sudden commencement of her last illness, a hemorrhage from the lungs, on the 15th of the Twelfth Month last.

On the first attack of the disorder she was perfectly tranquil, saying, "I am very calm,—I feel that I am in my Heavenly Father's hands." Some days subsequently, after a similar occasion of great exhaustion, our dear friend said, in a very faint voice, "My Heavenly Father knows all; and his will is a perfect

will. Sometimes, I think that in his great mercy, He will raise me up,—in degree, and at other times, it seems as if the frail tabernacle would give way." On her medical attendant remarking, that he believed many hearts were lifted up in prayer for her restoration, if it were right in the divine sight, she replied, "Rather let them desire for me, that I may be enabled to say fully and entirely, 'Not my will, but thine, O Lord! be done.'"

During the whole of her illness, her mind was sustained in patience, humility, and sweetness. She delighted in hearing or repeating short portions of Holy Scripture or of favourite hymns, and was frequently engaged in vocal prayer and thanksgiving to her Heavenly Father, whose tender love and compassion were so evident throughout this season of trial, and were so often acknowledged by her, saying at one time, "I am sweetly folded in my Saviour's arms;" and at another, "My comforts are very great, they flow as a river,—all is peace, and rest, and joy." Her illness was not attended with much bodily pain, but she often suffered from weakness and difficulty of breathing. On one occasion, after recovering from a severe fit of coughing, our dear friend said, in a very emphatic manner, "Peace, be still! and there was a great calm. The winds and the waves rage, till He speaks the word, but no longer." At another time she said, "I want not only to *think* that my will is resigned, but to *know* it." She several times, during her illness, repeated the words, "'I am the Lord that healeth thee;' this word seems given me night after night, 'I am the Lord that healeth thee.'" On its being remarked, "There is no limit to his power or his love," she rejoined, "Nor to his compassions, they fail not!"

The peaceful repose of her soul in her God and Saviour, was appropriately and beautifully described in the following language of the psalmist, which she often repeated, "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep; for Thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety." On one occasion, before settling for the night, she said, "And now, O Lord! thou Keeper of Israel, thou Guide and Guardian of thy people, to Thee we commend our souls." On awaking in the course of the same night, she said, "We sit under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit is sweet to our taste." At another time, she said, "We are having a balmy night,—'He

giveth his people a song in the night;'" adding afterwards, "Songs of deliverance, songs of gratitude, songs of praise, and songs of thanksgiving." Two days before her decease, after being relieved from an attack of pain which lasted several hours, she repeated these lines,

"When first, thou didst thy all commit,
To Him, upon the mercy-seat,
He gave thee warrant from that hour,
To trust his wisdom, love and power."

In the course of Second-day, the 15th of the First Month, it was evident to those who were watching her, that the last moment was approaching. It would be impossible to convey an idea of the sweetness of her manner and countenance. When much exhausted, she said,

"Jesus is my living bread,
He supports my fainting head."

A short time before her departure, on her husband's asking her whether she was comfortable, she answered, with marked emphasis, "Yes, *thoroughly*." When the power of articulation was nearly gone, he said to her, "My dearest knows her Saviour loves her;" to which she distinctly replied, "Yes, and I am reposing in his love." Soon after, her spirit gently and peacefully quitted its earthly tabernacle, to enter, we reverently believe, into the joy of her Lord.

Given forth by our Monthly Meeting, held at Tottenham, the 7th of Third Month, 1844.

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